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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 283

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 29, 2011

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support a PSS plan to bring drug-sniffing dogs to junior high and high school campuses to do drug sweeps?

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to cast your vote.

26
DAYS TO GO
BEFORE
Christmas

INSIDE



Robust Start

More Americans hunted for bargains over the weekend than ever before.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Crocs in Bangkok

Murky floodwaters are receding from Bangkok to reveal scary swamp dwellers.

ASIA...Page 15

Japan-based investor denies pulling out from COP. **PAGE 3**
Scholarship Office OKs 782 recipients this fall. **PAGE 6**

No improved status for aliens

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Years of pursuing an improved immigration status for long-term alien workers have yielded nothing. Worse, those whose umbrella permits expired on Nov. 27 are now hanging by a thread unless U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services approves their humanitarian parole request and petitions for Commonwealth-only worker status.

» Those left out in new USCIS parole to chart next move

See STATUS on Page 4

Delayed rebate/refund checks for thousands of taxpayers expected

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

While at least 50 percent of the estimated 12,000 taxpayers could receive their 2010 tax refund and rebate checks by Dec. 31 in time for the holidays, thousand of others may not get their checks at least until early next year because of the govern-

ment's continuing cash shortage.

The Fitial administration initially expected that all checks would be released before the end of the year, after starting to mail out checks in mid-October. The first batch amounted to some \$1 million for an estimated 1,000 checks. There have been other releases since then in small amounts.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that while there is money pumped into the rebate trust account, the amount is simply not enough to pay for all 2010 rebates and refunds.

"We're still issuing weekly or biweekly, but I know our initial target was for the end of December. I don't know if we will be able to complete everything but were trying our best. Again it's basically a function of available funds," Inos said in an interview at the ribbon-cutting for a new water well and waterline connection

See DELAYED on Page 4

BENEFIT CONCERT

A male Urali dancer smiles as the group performs their stick dance during the San Jose Church Benefit Concert at the Oleai Sports Complex Saturday night. The concert, highlighted by the song numbers from blind visionary and Marian devotee Fatima Soriano, was attended by some 500 parishioners and non-parishioners alike in support of the church's fundraising efforts to purchase air-conditioning units for the comfort of its churchgoers.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

See story and more photos on Page 2



PSS sees \$8M shortfall due to higher employer contribution rate

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System expects to incur a shortfall of \$8 million this fiscal

year because of the rate increase in employer contributions being enforced by the NMI Retirement Fund.

At the same time, PSS finance director Richard Waldo said there's no way PSS

can pay the mandated 60 percent employer contribution rate, which became effective on Oct. 1.

The employer contribution rate used to be just 37 percent.

Waldo pointed out that since PSS is a non-revenue generating agency that is heavily dependent on limited local appropriation, PSS cannot afford to make

See PSS on Page 4



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Local

Church's benefit concert a certified hit



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Marian devotee Fatima Soriano, who was born blind and was diagnosed with end-stage kidney failure at a young age, belts out a spiritual song.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Hundreds braved the intermittent rain to attend the San Jose Church Benefit Concert held at the Oleai Sports Complex on Saturday night.

The event, which coincided with the birthday of parish priest Fr. Jesse T. Reyes, featured bands and performing groups like the Aryd Band, Tasi & Aliis, Island Warriors, Maluw Band, Urali, and the Olomway Band.

They entertained an estimated crowd of some 500 community members, parishioners and non-parishioners alike, to support the efforts of the San Jose Church to raise money for the purchase of new air-conditioning units.

Highlighting the event was the performance of celebrated Marian devotee and Filipino singer Fatima Soriano, who was born blind and was diagnosed with end-stage kidney failure and had to undergo renal transplant at a very young age.

The young visionary, who has been featured in various radio and television shows, was on Saipan for the first time and fascinated the crowd, young and old alike, with spiritual songs in Filipino and English.

Soriano, in a spiel before one of her numbers, recounted that she is always asked if she has ever questioned God after everything she's been through and her ways of coping with the pain and suffering that life has thrown her way.

"I told them no," said the singer of the theme song of the hit Filipino telenovela *100 Days*

Let's not try to carry the burdens—never on our own. We have God's love, which is bigger than all our sufferings."

Encouraging the crowd to offer everything to God and let Him "take care of everything for us," Soriano said, "Everything happens for a reason in a person's life and we all have a mission. The Lord has a mission for us to fulfill while we are in this journey called life. The most important journey that we can take in our lifetime... is about going back to the heart."

Soriano said people should take the journey back to God's heart, back to other people's hearts, and back to one's own heart and not carry anger, guilt, doubt, and other burdens.

"Journey back to your own heart and see who you truly are," said Soriano before dedicating a song to the birthday celebrant.

Soriano's presence was key to the great turnout, said parish council president Manny Mangarero.

Mangarero disclosed that it was Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's idea, along with Reyes, to bring Soriano to Saipan for the fundraising concert.

"When they looked around for a religious singer, she was contacted by the governor and we were able to plan it out and here we are," he said, describ-

ing Soriano's singing as so "beautiful" that "it's giving me goose bumps."

According to Mangarero, the parish council took about three and a half weeks to plan and coordinate the event.

"We've got a lot of people from different churches on the island and I'm very happy that they're here to give us this support because our church really needs it," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Over a thousand tickets were sold at \$20 each and Mangarero said proceeds of the ticket sales, including that of the raffle ticket sales sold for \$1 each, will help San Jose Church buy three air-conditioning units to make parishioners "very comfortable" in the forthcoming holidays.

The raffle draw gave away various prizes, including the grand prize of a roundtrip ticket to anywhere in the U.S. from Delta Air Lines.

The council president described the island community as "very, very generous" regarding church causes. "Although the economy is bad, our church is doing good. It's doing fine because of the generosity of the people," he said. "I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to all the people of Saipan who are here... Those people that are not here and are here with us in spirit, I also thank them."

to Heaven. "I do not question or doubt the Lord's love for me. I trust in Him and I just believe that there's hope. For all of us right here, the message is the same. We offer our sufferings.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Members of the audience approach the stage to listen to the song numbers of blind visionary and Marian devotee Fatima Soriano.



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Urali female dancers strike a pose as they conclude their presentation.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

MINA No Need Bag Campaign

Every year, thousands of visitors travel to the Northern Mariana Islands with the specific goal of enjoying our beautiful beaches and diving our pristine waters. Reducing debris helps keep beaches and coastal waters clean and enjoyable for both visitors and residents, alike.



The Marianas Visitors Authority joins the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance in encouraging island residents to support the No Need Bag campaign.

1. Begin with yourself—don't use plastic bags, wherever, whenever! And then ... encourage others;
2. Start small - say "no" to plastic bags when purchasing 2-3 small items only or carry what you can without plastic bags;
3. Use reusable bags - Use tote bags or eco-bags. Start a trend here in the CNMI. Be one of the few that are starting to use reusable bags and begin promoting it. This is your chance to make a difference. Tell your friends, encourage your family, and talk about it among your peers. And if you are using reusable bags - keep it clean by washing it when necessary.
4. Use boxes - You've done it before while shopping at Costco or at the Joeten Price Club. They don't give out plastic bags there. Continue that same practice wherever and whenever you shop;
5. Encourage your favorite grocery store(s) to stop using plastic bags;
6. Teach your kids. Make it a family tradition.
7. Have a tote bag already? Please don't use it as a regular bag. It's a bag for your food whenever you shop. Practice food safety—even when shopping. Bring a small and clean cooler for your meat products. Add ice if your shopping is longer than expected.
8. Other tips—Bring your own tupperware when eating out; most restaurants charge extra for take out containers;
9. Carry your own water container wherever you go; and
10. Bring your own carafe whenever and wherever you order coffee.

For more information on the No Need Bag campaign, contact MINA Executive Director Sam Sablan at sablansam@gmail.com.



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Japan-based investor denies pulling out from COP

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Japan-based investor Yusuke Fumoto denied yesterday that he has pulled out from the Coral Ocean Point Resort Club where he also serves as chief executive officer and president.

In a telephone interview, Fumoto said the claim of Angelina "Tin" Podiquit, the terminated COP accountant, is not true at all.

"I never pulled out," he added.

In fact, Fumoto said he has been meeting with investors in Japan and China on how

best they could invest in Coral Ocean Point.

Vincent Torres, who is chairman of COP's new owner, Suwaso Corp., also denied the report, saying the claim that Fumoto pulled out is "absolutely not true."

"He's my partner. We have

our plan and everything is going as planned," Torres said.

As for Podiquit, Torres said the accountant was released or her contract with COP was not renewed. "Because it [contract] already expired, we don't have a contract."

Podiquit told *Saipan Tri-*

bune on Friday that the COP management had announced during an F&B meeting two weeks ago that Fumoto has indeed backed out. She disclosed that three investors had actually already backed out and Fumoto was just the latest.

Podiquit is preparing a lawsuit against Suwaso over her alleged termination without cause, which according to her was unlawful. The 48-year-old accountant claims that she was treated like a criminal after being handed her termination letter, when she was asked to take her things from the office and was escorted by two employees out of the premises.

Podiquit said the only reason she could think of why she was

terminated was that she was truthful to vendors, who would follow up on payments. She said she would tell them that COP has no money.

Last Aug. 5, the Senate and the House of Representatives approved Suwaso Corp.'s proposed 15-year extension on its 25-year public land lease for COP despite Gov. Benigno Fitial's request to members of the House leadership to postpone a vote on the deal.

The new Suwaso owners promised to settle the previous owners' debts to the CNMI government in tax arrears of almost \$1 million, and with other CNMI private and public agencies using an immediate infusion of \$7 million.

NMC down to just 175 employees this fiscal year

» **Hart orders review of limited term contracts, acting/interim positions**

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The number of employees at the Northern Marianas College dropped slightly and may continue to decline in coming months after the college's president, Dr. Sharon Hart, ordered a comprehensive review of all units and departments to determine what positions to keep and abolish.

Records from the college's Human Resource Office show that NMC has 175 employees, a slight reduction from the 198 the college employed last fiscal year.

Of the 175 current employees, 28 are instructional faculty while 37 are non-instructional faculty. The rest are managers and administrative staffers.

Hart told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that each unit manager has been tasked to revisit limited-term contracts, interim or acting positions, and new positions that may be needed. These three job classifications, she said, are being reviewed in a bid to help the college save substantial amounts in its personnel cost.

On Saturday, a comprehensive staffing analysis will be presented to Hart, during which

a decision is expected to be made.

"Once we get this review process [done], we're ready to make an announcement of possible positions we may need for each department," said Hart.

Besides the announcement for more adjunct instructors, NMC is also looking for an entomologist and a plant pathologist. Hart said these vacant posts are both federally funded.

According to Hart, all these efforts are geared toward aligning the college with its budget this fiscal year. NMC was only allocated \$5.1 million for personnel and operations in fiscal year 2011-2012.

Since assuming the presidency in July this year, Hart said she has learned that there have been quite a few individuals who have been serving in acting capacities for many years now. "I believe that we have to provide the opportunity to open those [positions] for employment."

College records indicate that it has three individuals who serve in acting capacities, while 25 serve under limited-term appointments covering both federal and non-federal programs.

Hart said that majority of those whose contracts were not renewed since the start of the

fiscal year were under limited-term appointments, which range from three months up to one year. They were not renewed because their terms have ended or the federal grants that funded their positions have stopped, she said.

Hart said the college may let go of some positions—interim and limited contracts—if the college deems it cost-effective without hampering the delivery of services to students. She said "priority positions" will rule in the budget planning.

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Rates for NMC instructors, overload faculty to be revamped

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Due to a huge budget shortfall this fiscal year, Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart will be enforcing cost-effective measures to avert a “chaotic situation” at the college. Among the steps she plans to implement is a change in the rates of adjunct instructors and overload faculty members.

Hart told the Board of Regents yes-

terday that under the existing practice, NMC determines rates for adjunct instructors based on their educational credentials.

“We’re going to change that and we [have a number of reasons to] believe that it needs total revamp,” said Hart.

She also disclosed that permanent employees of the college will be asked to teach to save on hiring adjuncts and additional faculty.

“It’s time to really focus within the

college and look at our current staff. We’re looking at absorbing the cost [budget shortfall] internally by re-using our personnel in areas where they are needed and I believe we have a very educated staff and employees. We may include the teaching service as part of their contractual obligation to the college,” Hart said.

For example, Students’ Services dean Leo Pangelinan, who must put in 40 hours weekly as program dean, can

reduce this to 30 hours a week and render the remaining 10 hours by teaching students.

Saipan Tribune learned that because of the lack of instructors, some faculty members teach a number of classes above the allowed credit and this is

classified as overload. In previous fiscal years, this expense would reach close to a million dollar. Payment is sourced from tuition collected from students.

Because NMC has been incurring such a huge cost for overloads, Hart said the new rates will minimize this cost.

DELAYED

From Page 1

project on Mount Tapochao yesterday afternoon.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said the government may be able to issue “at least 50 percent” of the checks by Dec. 31. There’s an estimated 12,000 taxpayers covered by 2010 refunds and rebates amounting to \$7 million to \$8 million.

He said other checks could be released in early 2012.

The government, however, takes into consideration taxpayers requesting release of their checks to cover medical emergency, death in the family, and other reasons.

“Otherwise, we go on the basis of filing dates,” he said.

Ferdie Santos, a resident of Fina Sisú,

said he’s been checking the mailbox for his refund/rebate check since middle of October, which he plans to use for paying some past due accounts.

“That’s because I just had a family emergency, and the money I set aside for other obligations such as house rental went to that emergency. So it would really be a big help if my rebate or refund check comes out soon,” said Santos.

A 51-year-old China Town resident said he’s disappointed to learn that many taxpayers may not be able to receive their checks by December. He said he has been planning to use that money to buy Christmas gifts for his family.

The father of three said he expects some \$700 in rebate/refund, which could go a long way toward making the holidays a bit merrier than usual.

“I just wonder why the rebate trust

account is empty or not enough to pay for the rebate. Where did they use the money that’s supposed to be there? If we taxpayers miss the deadline for filing, we get penalized. But if the government is delayed in releasing rebate or refund checks, we don’t get interest,” he said.

Inos asked for taxpayers’ patience during these tough financial times.

To help remedy the cash shortage, Inos said they are trying to make partial payments for child tax credit, rebate, refund, and federal stimulus checks “hopefully so that everyone will get something rather than wait until we have enough funds for everything.”

A refund is for tax that has been overpaid or incorrectly paid, and is returned to the taxpayer, while rebate is for tax properly paid and is subsequently returned to the taxpayer under a rebate provision.

STATUS

From Page 1

Up until yesterday, many long-term alien workers, including those who are now jobless because of the grim state of the economy, were still hoping that USCIS will grant parole for all aliens legal as of Nov. 27. That didn’t happen.

Bonifacio Sagana, president of Dekada Movement and one of the organizers of the Unity March in December 2007, said it has been “frustrating” that Congress continues to ignore Interior’s recommendation to grant improved status to long-term foreign workers.

“It’s frustrating but I don’t regret supporting federal takeover. I believe with or without improved status, the CNMI immigration had to be federalized because of labor abuses,” said Sagana, who has yet to get back wages from a security firm he worked for more than 10 years ago.

While such improved status was removed from the final bill that became the federalization law, he said they were hoping that Congress will eventually act on Interior’s recommendations.

Sagana said many have obtained parole-in-place from USCIS, but this only gives them status to remain in the CNMI up until Jan. 31, 2012, or Dec. 31, 2012, and is not about improved status. He said H.R. 1466 also does not grant “improved status” but only allows continued status to remain in the CNMI—similar to the old CNMI system.

Mel Domingo, 62, said he’s been a legal worker in the CNMI since 1991 until his contract was not renewed on Jan. 30, 2010. While he has already found a new employer, his CW application is still pending.

“I came here as a legal worker, spent years of my life here, I got older here, paid taxes here, has not committed a crime, and I have been hoping that all our requests for improved status will be granted, but there’s nothing. If this were

under U.S. immigration, I would have been eligible for green card a long time ago,” said Domingo, who was among the thousands who marched in support of federalization in 2007.

Rabby Syed, president of United Workers Movement-NMI, said that while it’s disappointing that long-term foreign workers’ request for improved status has been ignored for years, he is not losing hope that “something” can still be done.

He said UWM will continue to push for “green card, pathway to U.S. citizenship” despite losing the battle on “parole for all legal aliens as of Nov. 27,” although he said he’s happy USCIS will consider granting parole to four groups of people.

Syed also announced yesterday that they will have a Dec. 4 meeting at 6pm to map out a strategy to help those who are left out from the new parole that USCIS announced on Thanksgiving and those left out in HR 1466.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said there’s nothing they could do with the Nov. 27 expiration of umbrella permits issued by the CNMI government, as well as the Nov. 28 deadline for filing CW petitions for continued employment of legal foreign workers.

‘US failures’

Human rights advocate and former Rota teacher Wendy Doromal, in responding to *Saipan Tribune* questions, said that, at this point, the U.S. government “has failed the legal, long-term foreign resident workers.”

She said the first failure was when no status provision was provided in U.S. Public Law 110-229 or the federalization law, despite extensive efforts to explain the dangers of omitting such a provision.

The second failure, she said, was the failure of Congress to immediately respond to the DOI report with recommendations for status for the foreign workers.

“An aware Congress would have

been anticipating the report and preparing legislation, but this Congress failed even after the report was issued in April 2010 to act immediately despite the pleas, petitions, letters, and reports from the advocates and the foreign workers. There still has been no legislation introduced that addresses the DOI recommendations to provide status for all of the CNMI’s legal, foreign resident workers,” she said.

Like many other foreign workers, Doromal does not consider parole, CNMI-only resident status offered in HR 1466, and CW status to be “improved” status.

She reiterated that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan’s HR 1466 is a “flawed immigration bill, un-American, and very destructive, in that it stands as an obstacle [to] a much-needed bill to address the status for all of the legal, foreign resident workers of the CNMI.

“One essential purpose of the CNRA was to align the CNMI with the INA and U.S. immigration law. H.R. 1466 proposes to create another category under the INA called CNMI-only status. It sets a dangerous precedent. Do we really want to see Alabama-only or Arizona-only status? This goes against everything that anyone who supports comprehensive immigration reform believes in,” said Doromal.

She said as Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) remarked when he, Sablan, and 37 other House members signed an amicus brief in support of the U.S. Department of Labor lawsuit against the Alabama law: “The Constitution is quite clear about the federal government’s preeminent role in immigration matters and having 50 inconsistent state policies toward immigrants is a level of chaos the Founders sought to avoid.”

Sablan said that HR 1466 is moving inch by inch. USCIS’ announcement to grant on a case-by-case basis parole until Dec. 31, 2012, to immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain stateless individuals will give Congress more time to act on his bill. But Sablan

said if he changes his bill to accommodate the thousand others that Doromal has been referring to, his bill will not pass.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is not only against HR 1466, but also wants to stop USCIS from granting parole to these individuals.

He wants USCIS to rid the CNMI of illegal nonresidents and might take the route of filing a lawsuit, but will wait for the results of a review by the Office of the Attorney General on the matter.

Band aids

Doromal pointed out that all the actions—parole, CNMI-only resident status, and CW status—are just band-aids that the U.S. government is attempting to place on “a problem the size of a hemorrhage.”

“There exists a humanitarian crisis in the CNMI that is being excused, or ignored by the federal government. My heart goes out to every foreign worker and their family members in this terrible time of uncertainty and disappointment,” she said.

She added that if HR 1466 passes without being amended, foreign workers will probably lose hope that they will ever be given a pathway to citizenship.

“Congressman Sablan has made it clear that he wants the 12,000 foreign workers that he so callously omitted from his bill to ‘go home,’ as he told me when I met with him in October. Governor Fitial has offered even less support. In a day, on Nov. 28, 2011, most of the foreign workers will wake up and find themselves out of status. If HR 1466 passes, there will be no other ‘status’ bill introduced,” she said.

Doromal added that HR 1466 harms all of the workers—“the three-fourth heartlessly left out, and the one-fourth who would receive an inferior status that would keep them as second-class citizens, disenfranchised with restricted travel until they are petitioned by a U.S. citizen relative.”

But when asked whether she thinks

federalized immigration is better than the CNMI system, she said the federal system is still in its infancy and transitioning so that leaves hope that it could become an effective program.

“However, scams and cheating of foreign workers still exists under the federal system. The system that maintained the oppressive two-tiered society of the haves and have-nots still exists under the federal program. The idea that guest workers should be treated as less than human, as replaceable commodities still exists. The injustices continue and will continue because the program is flawed, just like the CNMI program was,” she said.

Doromal also said that any guest worker program that has a revolving turnstile where foreign workers can enter, be abused, be denied justice, be sent home, and new ones are welcomed in to repeat the cycle is “inhumane and un-American.”

“A just guest worker program requires that foreign workers must be viewed as future citizens. A just guest worker program ensures that the foreign workers are paid what is owed them. Hopefully, the federal government will realize this and take the proper steps to reform the program. That is the only way it can be seen as being ‘better’ than the CNMI system,” she added.

Foreign workers are still owed at least \$6.1 million in back wages, among other things, by CNMI employers.

Rene Reyes, president of Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd. or Mahal and one of the organizers of the unity march, said he’s disappointed that long-term guest workers still do not have improved status.

He said that after all’s been said and done and yet the federal government does not listen, it’s no longer the fault of foreign workers who have helped build the CNMI economy. Just like Doromal, he said it’s not the long-term foreign workers’ failure, but the U.S. government’s failure to address their immigration status.

CW petition only for those 'lawfully present' in the CNMI

» Form I-9 CNMI no longer valid

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Nonresidents are only eligible

Fitial: Palacios lacks standing to sue for veto of the casino bill

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asserts that Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) lacks standing to bring a lawsuit against his veto of the local Saipan casino bill.

Fitial, through assistant attorney general Michael A. Stanker, also argued that he fully complied with the CNMI Constitution in vetoing the Saipan and Northern Islands Casino Con-

trol Act of 2011.

Fitial asked the Superior Court to dismiss Palacios' lawsuit.

In his motion to dismiss, Stanker said that Palacios fails to satisfy any of the three factors needed in order to be able to sue the governor for the veto action.

First, Stanker said, Palacios

tion Services said.

"A person is not 'lawfully present' if they are engaged in unauthorized employment, so yes, in this case for an application filed after Nov. 28, USCIS

has not experienced a concrete and particularized injury as a result of Fitial vetoing HLB 17-44.

Second, even if Palacios had suffered an injury, which he has not, there is no causation as the governor is entitled to veto a bill for any reason, he said.

Third, the lawyer said, the veto will not be "redressed by a

would deny the I-129CW petition on this basis," said USCIS regional media manager Marie Therese Sebrechts.

Sebrechts said there are penalties for knowingly employing

favorable decision" because the court cannot pass the law, the requested relief will not place the bill before the governor for approval, and the governor could still veto the bill even if the court gave a favorable decision.

"Therefore, Palacios fails to demonstrate any of the three elements of standing," Stanker said. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

unauthorized aliens, "so the employer also bears the responsibility for compliance."

Employers can still file CW petitions for their existing nonresident employees after Nov. 28. However, these nonresidents cannot begin to work until the CW petitions are approved.

Aliens with parole up to Jan. 31, 2012, and had umbrella permits but were unemployed as of Nov. 28 can also be filed a CW petition by an employer after Nov. 28 if they find an employer before the expiration of their parole. However, they also cannot work until the CW petitions are approved.

These aliens, however, must be considered lawfully present before Nov. 27.

At the same time, USCIS announced that Form I-9 CNMI will no longer be valid for use after Nov. 27.

Beginning Nov. 28, 2011, employers must use the standard Form I-9, Employment Eligibility Verification when hiring individuals for employment in the CNMI and for reverification purposes.

All U.S. employers must complete and retain a Form I-9 for each individual they hire for employment in the United States. This includes citizens and non-citizens alike.

Employers are not supposed to file Form I-9 with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or USCIS but must keep it either for three years after the date of hire or for one year after employment is terminated, whichever is later. The form must be available for inspection by authorized U.S. government officials including those from the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Labor, and Department of Justice.



NEW WATER WELL

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, third from right, leads the ribbon cutting for a new TP-1 water well and waterline connection project in the Mount Tapochao area yesterday afternoon. The U.S. Office of Insular Affairs-funded project—completed as a result of collaboration among OIA, CNMI Water Task Force, Capital Improvement Projects Office and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.—is expected to improve water services to nearly 2,000 residents in the Capital Hill, Wireless, Kingfisher, and Tapochao areas.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB12-DPS/RBS-019

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 20, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 3-PASSENGER PERSONAL WATER CRAFT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-BOATING SAFETY SECTION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council

PO Box 506296 Saipan, MP 96950,
TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: nmidir@ovrgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICERS

CHAIRPERSON
Isidro K. Seman

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Pamela Sablan

SECRETARY
Diane Camacho

FISCAL
Jeremy Atalig

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the State Rehabilitation Council will hold its FY'12 First General Membership on Thursday, December 01, 2011 at the Caladium Hall, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort at 9:00 am - 2:00 pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Roll Call by SRC Secretary
- III. Review and adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and adoption of the FY'11 4th Meeting Minutes (09/08/11)
- V. Reports
 - a. OVR Director
 - b. Sub-Committees
 - c. SRC Chairman
- VI. Old Business
 - FY 2012 Committee Activities
 - TSA Airport Security Briefing
 - OVR E-Rehab Modules Training
- VII. New Business
 - FY 2012 State Plan Forums
 - 2012 SRC Resource Plan
 - OVR Urgencies
- VIII. Consumer Forum
 - TSA Airport Security Presentation
- IX. Announcements/Miscellaneous
- X. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY) two days before the meeting. For more clarification, please contact Elvira Seman at 322-6537 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY).

/s/ Isidro K. Seman
CHAIRMAN

HEALTH WALK DECEMBER 03, 2011



Registration Information:

Saipan: 5:30am to 8:00am – 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field

Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School

Scholarship Office approves 782 recipients this fall semester

» \$1.19M budget to be directly transmitted to NMC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 782 college students have been found eligible to receive CNMI Scholarship grants this 2011 fall semester, according to administrator Jackie Che yesterday.

She disclosed that the eligible recipients are composed of 420 students from the Northern Marianas College and 362 recipients from off-island universities and colleges.

Off-island scholars will be getting \$700 this fall semester. Award amounts remain pending for eligible NMC scholars and will be determined based on the scholar's cost of atten-

dance, among other education-related factors.

NMC scholars will be awarded a total of \$1.19 million, covering both the Educational Assistance Program and Honor scholars for this school year.

Under Public Law 17-55, NMC will directly receive the money from the CNMI Treasury. The agreement that sets the mechanism for this direct transfer of funds is now being finalized and the CNMI Scholarship advisory board is working with NMC on this transition, according to Che.

For NMC applicants, Che advises students not to rely solely on the CNMI Scholarship or other locally funded scholarships to finance their education-related costs. "There is no assurance

that these awards will be issued in time for NMC scholars to register for winter intersession or spring [semesters]. At this time, scholars must look at the CNMI Scholarship as a supplement to their financial resources and contributions to their education, not a replacement," she told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The NMI Scholarship Office has a budget of \$2 million this fiscal year.

With the \$1.19 million going to NMC scholars, the NMI Scholarship Office will be left with just \$810,000 that will be awarded to off-island scholars.

Last month, the scholarship advisory board reduced the amount of financial awards this semester by 42 percent under the EAP program. From the

previous year's \$1,200 financial awards under EAP, the amount was slashed to \$700 per student per semester starting this semester. The statutory financial awards for Honor scholars will remain up to, but not exceeding, \$15,000 per year. There are 30 students that fall under the Honor Scholarship program this school year.

Compared to EAP, Honors scholarship requires a very high grade point average requirement that the scholars have to maintain every semester. All school expenses by scholars under this program have to be certified by the school financial aid counselor, which the CNMI Scholarship Office verifies before releasing the checks.

The EAP, on the other hand, requires a 2.25 cumulative GPA and enrolment in 12 units or more for the semester.



Che

PDM to jumpstart holiday celebrations at Paseo

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Several events and activities have been lined up at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan by the non-profit group PDM Promoters, Inc. to jumpstart this year's holiday celebration.

Sonia Siwa of PDM Promoters Inc. said the festivities will kick off on Wednesday, Nov. 30, when elementary schools participating in the 6th Christmas Tree Decoration contest will decorate their trees.

Sixteen public and private schools will be competing for the title of best decorated tree using recycled materials to promote recycling among the CNMI's youth.

Another public school, the Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, signed up for the contest at the last minute.

Around 4pm on Thursday, Dec. 1, seven judges representing major sponsors, supporters, and government agencies will be invited to judge the 16 decorated Christmas trees based on the use of old or used materials, relevance to the holiday theme, attractiveness, creativity and design, and durability.

The judges are from Tan Siu Lin Foundation, NTT Docomo Saipan, DFS Galleria Saipan, Power 99, RNV Construction, Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, the Women's Affairs Office, and the First Lady's Vision Foundation.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This 30-foot tall Christmas tree in the middle of Paseo de Marianas, built out of recycled materials and donated by RNV Construction, will be lit on Thursday, Dec. 1.

Siwa said the same judges will also decide on the winning entries from Rota and Tinian elementary students for the "My Holiday Greetings To Our Visitors" contest.

On the same day, Siwa said there will be a lighting ceremony after sunset for the 30-foot Christmas tree in the middle of Paseo de Marianas.

Siwa said the giant Christmas tree, which is also built out of recycled materials and donated by RNV Construction, will be lit along with the 16 tree entries for the decoration contest.

The lighting ceremony, Siwa

said, is immediately followed by a program arranged by the Garapan Street Market management under the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. It will feature a performance from the Saipan Awaodori Team, among others.

The contest winners will be announced during a program that would feature more local performances on Dec. 15 starting at 5pm.

Two days after or on Dec. 17, Siwa said Paseo de Marianas will host for the first time the *Paskong Pinoy* organized by the United Filipino Organiza-

tion with the support of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Before the islands welcome another year, the 3rd Mochitsuki Festival will take place at 5:30pm on Dec. 29.

"There will be actual making of mocha, the Japanese rice cake, to welcome the New Year and everyone is invited to take part in the event," added Siwa.

Siwa urged the community to support the scheduled events at the Paseo de Marianas to give the islands a much needed lift in these trying times.

For more information, call 234-6900.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Veterans' outreach today, tomorrow

Tina San Agustin, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs legal administrative specialist from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, will be on Tinian and Saipan for a veterans outreach on veterans' federal benefits. She will also be entertaining questions and assisting with claims.

■ Tinian: Nov. 29, from 8:30am to 4:30pm at the Tinian Municipal Council's office.

■ Saipan: Nov. 30 to Dec. 1, from 8:30am to 4:30pm at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, Building 1364, Capital Hill.

For those who wish to make an appointment or ask for further information, contact Bernie B. Dela Cruz at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at (670) 664-2650. (PR)

WIA automates Tinian office

The CNMI Workforce Investment Agency successfully automated its Tinian office's case management system through a technical assistance and support provided by the Guam AHRD Office. This automation enables the Tinian case manager remote access to enter real-time case management information on the main client server that is physically located in the Saipan office while assessing individuals.

Case management automation is one of WIA's many transformation initiatives bringing the CNMI state, as a grantee of WIA federal employment and training dollars, in compliance with the mandates of the grantor agency, U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Region 6 San Francisco Office.

CNMI WIA extends its appreciation to Frank C. Roberto, director of Guam AHRD, and to Jaime Rodriguez, systems administrator, GDOL/AHRD, for their continued technical assistance and support. (Office of the Governor)

Immunization Clinic open for student immunizations

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s Immunization Clinic at the Commonwealth Health Center on Lower Navy Hill will open five days a week, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 4:30pm, including lunch hours, to accommodate students in need of their required immunizations for school entrance.

Furthermore, parents of children who are not enrolled in school yet are also urged to make sure their children are up to date with all their immunizations and to visit the Immunization Clinic or any private clinic, including Tinian Health Center and Rota Health Center if their children are not fully im-

munized with their required shots. No appointment is necessary at the CHC Immunization Clinic and all vaccines are provided at no cost. For more information, contact the Immunization Clinic at 236-8745 or 236-8708/80/81. (PR)

Navy, Air Force set training on WA-517, FDM

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Nov. 29 and 30, from 8am to 5pm. The U.S. Air Force, meanwhile, will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Dec. 1, from 7am to 10pm, and on Dec. 2-3, from 7am to 6pm.

The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated.

W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. (PR)

Drivers urged to watch out for cyclists

Motorists are being urged to be particularly cautious when driving on the morning of Saturday, Dec. 3, when the CNMI hosts the 5th Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle.

Pacific Islands Club said that cyclists will be riding in packs from 6:30am to 9:30am on the northbound lane of Isa Drive near San Vicente, Papago, Kagman, and Capital Hill.

There will be cones to indicate the bike lane as well as DPS officers and official media vehicles. If motorists can circumvent these portions of Isa Drive in the morning, it will prevent heavy traffic congestion and enhance safety for all.

For additional safety measures, the public is being encouraged to restrain their dogs in the morning along the route.

"Drivers, please be careful as more bicyclists will be riding on the roads training from now until Saturday, Dec. 3, 2011," the notice said. (PR)

Palau Community Association meeting Saturday

Palau Community Association will be holding an important meeting on Dec. 3, 9am at Navy Hill for the 16th state president officers and all Palauans in the islands are invited. For more information, call Felisa Brel at 989-2735 or PCA president Rufino Aguon at 483-6232. (PR)

Customer sues restaurant for alleged fall

A woman has sued an establishment in Garapan for the alleged injuries she sustained when a protruding metal rebar in the parking lot caused her to trip and fall to the ground.

Veronica Cruz Velasco, through counsel Victorino DLG. Torres, is suing Hi-

mawari Saipan Inc. for negligence. She is demanding unspecified damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Himawari operates a store, bakery, and restaurant.

Saipan Tribune contacted Himawari yesterday for comment, but one of its owners, Tatsuhito

Suzuki, was not available as of press time.

Torres stated in the complaint that Velasco was walking toward Himawari from the parking lot, on March 14, 2011, when she tripped over a bended rebar that was protruding but was not adequately visible. Torres said that

Velasco fell to the ground and sustained unspecified injuries.

The lawyer said that Himawari failed to provide any sign whatsoever that there was a bended rebar in the way and intruding upon the customers' pathway. Himawari failed to put a cone or barricade to give any warning, Torres said. (Ferdie de la Torre)

Christmas exhibit highlights work of islands' artists

Brilliant Star to host annual holiday bazaar

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brilliant Star School will be hosting its 7th Annual Holiday Bazaar on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 9am to 5pm at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The Annual Holiday Bazaar is a pre-holiday festival and fundraising event showcasing the talents, wares, and services of CNMI artists and service providers while spreading the holiday cheer.

Richard Sikkel, principal for Brilliant Star School, said this year's bazaar will feature holiday-themed craft items made by students, calendars, food and baked items, and a bouncy house for the young crowd.

"The school raises money by providing arts and crafts for kids, so parents can do some shopping at the bazaar while their child is doing the arts and crafts," Sikkel said.

Of the 26 booths for the event, Sikkel disclosed that they only have about six left. Each vendor pays \$50 per

booth for the whole day, with the proceeds of their sales going directly into their pockets.

"We still have a few booths available, but they're going like hot cakes since [yesterday] morning," said Sikkel.

Sunday's attractions also include performances throughout the day from the Manta Ray Band, Nate van Ee, Lil' Hands, Do Re Mi, Mei Demapan, Keynotes, Angel's, and Glusko's Academy.

Sikkel said they will also hold their annual holiday raffle, which would give away various items donated by local businesses. All proceeds of the raffle will go to the school.

The fundraising efforts will help Brilliant Star School provide tuition assistance to qualifying families "to ensure economic diversity" in its classrooms.

Brilliant Star School currently has 70 students, said Sikkel.

Any additional money from the event will also be used to improve the school's playground.

For more information, call 323-STAR (7827).

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 200 artworks from 16 registered artists are featured in the Island Artist & Christmas Craft Exhibit at the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture Galleria on Capital Hill.

The Island Artist & Christmas Craft Exhibit, which opened to the public yesterday and will run until Dec. 22, is one of three major exhibits sponsored by the leading agency in the advancement of arts and culture in the CNMI.

"The exhibit is very colorful and filled with the Christmas spirit and, at the same time, is still traditional in that it illustrates the rich cultural heritage and the beauty of the CNMI," Parker Yobei, Arts in Education and Festival coordinator for the Arts Council, said yesterday.

This year's exhibit features the works of island artists Joe Weaver, Joe Kani, Leslie Ware, Larry Lee, Jung Ae Lee, Debra Winkfield, Priscilla Pangelinan, Rosana Villaraiz, Poland Yamada, Nick Klewei, Jack Hardy, Cherry Camigia, Catherine Perry, and Heinz Staffler.

This exhibit also welcomes two new artists who recently registered with the Arts Council: Jennifer Kogure and Alegria Richardson.

The new store manager for the American Memorial Park book-



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Arts in Education and Festival coordinator Parker Yobei of the Arts Council poses with some of the works of art featured in the Island Artist & Christmas Craft Exhibit, which opened yesterday. The exhibit, located at the Arts Council Galleria on Capital Hill, will be open to the public until Dec. 22.

store, Richardson said she has been painting for over 20 years now, getting inspiration from her family and mostly from the places where she has lived.

Richardson, who previously lived in Guam, Palau, and Texas before relocating to Saipan, has eight works of art featured in the exhibit, with prices ranging from \$200 to \$300.

"This is the first exhibit that I'm a part of here on Saipan and it feels great. I can see that there are a lot of brilliant artists in the CNMI and I'm excited to meet them," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Richardson disclosed that she was active in the artists' com-

munity of Palau, having taught art classes to elementary students in that island nation.

"I'm hoping to continue that here," said Richardson. "I also hope that the artists' community here in the CNMI will become more visible and stronger so we can show to the tourists how talented our artists are."

The exhibit, Yobei said, features paintings, photographs, postcards, ornaments, bead art, storyboards, and other creations, some of which are sold for as low as \$2 up to \$400.

"We have a little bit of everything and they are perfect gift ideas for the holidays to fam-

ily and friends both here and abroad," said Yobei.

The council still expects more artists to come in and display their works at the exhibit.

"We're optimistic that this exhibit is another opportunity for the artists to display and hopefully sell their creations," Yobei added.

He urged the community to support local artists by stopping by at the exhibit, which is open Monday to Thursday, from 8am to 5pm, and on Friday and Saturday, from 11am to 4pm. It will be closed on Sundays and during holidays.

For more information, call 322-9982 or 83.

Parole for IRs of US citizens

Based on recent developments in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, USCIS will consider, on a case by case basis, a grant of parole until Dec. 31, 2012 to the immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and certain "stateless" individuals.

This will allow immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and stateless individuals to maintain legal status in the CNMI.

With the expiration of umbrella permits on Nov. 27, 2011, immediate relatives and certain stateless individuals may not have another option under U.S. immigration law. We will release guidance for applying for this kind of parole soon. We encourage you to continue checking www.uscis.gov/cnmi for updates on the latest guidance.

USCIS has exercised parole authority on a case-by-case basis in the CNMI since 2009 for special situations.

Who can stay in the CNMI after Nov. 27, 2011, and apply for this type of parole?

You may be eligible to stay in the CNMI and apply for parole if you are:

- An immediate relative of a U.S. citizen. An immediate relative is: a legal spouse, unmarried child under 21 years old or parent (regardless of the age of the U.S. citizen child) who is legally present and resides in the CNMI as of Nov. 27, 2011;

- A foreign national born in what is now the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978

(this group of individuals is sometimes referred to as "stateless" because of their unique situation under the Covenant Act establishing eligibility for U.S. citizenship of individuals born in the CNMI); or

- A child (unmarried under 21 years old) or legal spouse of a foreign national who was born in what is now the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978 (also known as a stateless individual).

Applying for parole

If you are eligible for this kind of parole, we ask that you **DO NOT** apply for parole until USCIS announces more specific details on how to apply.

USCIS is providing this initial information in order to address concerns of this group of CNMI residents in light of the pending Nov. 27, 2011 expiration of umbrella permits to assist them in making appropriate plans for the future.

Working

If you are eligible for this type of parole, you **cannot** work or apply for an Employment Authorization Document until you are authorized for parole. A grant of parole will provide continuing lawful presence after Nov. 27, 2011 and authorize you to apply for an EAD.

Foreign workers (aliens) working only under an umbrella permit **are not** authorized to be employed in the CNMI on or after Nov. 28, 2011 except for certain beneficiaries of transitional worker (CW) petitions. (**USCIS**)



Mount Carmel School held the drawing of its 2011 Royal Court Raffle

on November 23, 2011

Listed below are the winners:

Prizes:	Amount	Ticket No.	Winner's Name:
Grand Prize	\$800.00	11448	Jessica Sonoda
1st Prize	\$400.00	03155	Zita Sablan
2nd Prize	\$300.00	02336	Benedicto Sta. Ana
3rd Prize	\$200.00	08528	Nikacia Camacho
4th Prize	\$200.00	09456	M.A.A.S.
5th Prize	\$100.00	03020	Ly'ana Muna
6th Prize	\$100.00	06052	Galvin
7th Prize	\$50.00	07134	KBNC
8th Prize	\$50.00	13839	Felix A. Ayuyu
9th Prize	\$50.00	13105	Cassandra Borja
10th Prize	\$50.00	13060	Jim Taman

All prizes may be claimed at the Business Office from 7:30 a.m to 4:30 pm. Monday through Friday except Holidays. Last day to claim prizes will be on December 16, 2011. Any question(s) pertaining to this announcement may contact the Business Office at telephone number (670) 235-1201 or 235-1285.

/S/ Margaret C. DelaCruz
President, Mount Carmel School, Inc.

Register for NMC's intersession semester

The Northern Marianas College has announced that it will be offering academic courses during a new Intersession semester, where courses will meet for approximately three weeks from Dec. 5-29, 2011.

This new semester or "intersession" was created to help students achieve their educational goals; it is ideal for those who need one or two courses to graduate or for those who want to lighten their academic load during upcoming semesters.

In addition, the college will be accepting applications from new students for the Intersession. To learn more about deadlines and requirements for new students, including information on financial aid, contact Romeo Cuellar at 234-5498 ext. 1345, email romeoc@nmcnet.edu, or visit the Counseling and Career Center (Building I) for more information.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including bachelor of science degrees in education (emphasis on elementary education, special education, early childhood education, or rehabilitation and hu-

INTERSESSION SEMESTER DATES

- Nov. 30, 2011: English placement test (9am-4pm in Building M)
- Dec. 1-2, 2011: Registration days
- Dec. 5, 2011: First day of instruction
- Dec. 5-6, 2011: Add/drop days (100 percent Refund)
- Dec. 8, 2011: Holiday
- Dec. 9, 2011: Last day for 80 percent refund
- Dec. 13, 2011: Last day for 40 percent refund
- Dec. 16, 2011: Last day to withdraw from courses
- Dec. 26, 2011: Holiday
- Dec. 29, 2011: Last day of instruction
- Dec. 30-31, 2011: Final exams
- Jan. 2, 2012: Holiday
- Jan. 3, 2012: Grades due

man services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

Registration for the intersession semester is on Thursday, Dec. 1 and Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, from 8am to 5pm.

Those who wish to take

courses at NMC must take the placement tests. For the upcoming English placement test, there is a \$25 fee that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday-Friday, 8:30am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment (a receipt for the placement test fee, or the NMC application fee). Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee. If you have a placement test fee waiver, students must obtain a placement test slip from the Office of Admissions and Records

prior to taking the test.

Test takers must also bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

Those who wish to take the English placement test are strongly encouraged to contact the Language and Humanities Department to schedule an appointment. "Walk-in" test takers will be accommodated based on seat availability. The average time to complete the English placement test is between 1.5 and 2.5 hours.

To schedule an appointment to take the English placement test or for more information, contact Jim Kline at 234-5498 Ext. 2017, Tom Colton at 234-5498 Ext. 2009, or Elsie Skang-Ngewakl at Ext. 2014.

For more information about the intersession semester, log on to www.nmcnet.edu to view the Frequently-Asked-Questions section, class schedules and important dates. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1528. (NMC)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 29, 2000

EPA grants \$1 million to improve drinking water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will make available \$1,124,300 to improve drinking water system infrastructure in the CNMI, according to Division of Environmental Quality Director Ignacio V. Cabrera. Mr. Cabrera said the funding comes from money the U.S. Congress authorized under the 1996 amendments to the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. The purpose of the funding is to improve compliance with the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations or to otherwise further the health protection objectives of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act.

Officials to conduct land crab sampling again

Federal and local agencies will begin gathering land crab samples on Dec. 11, 2000 as part of an in-depth study to determine the extent of polychlorinated biphenyl contamination. Division of Environmental Quality Director Ignacio V. Cabrera said a workplan will be drafted by both the local and federal agency representatives. Aside from DEQ, other agencies involved are the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Public Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The community will be represented by the Tanapag Action Group in the survey. EPA and ATSDR have chosen five locations for the land crab sampling to get a more diverse population.

Nov. 29, 2001

Transition members check govt agencies

The transition panel yesterday started sorting documents and interviewing government workers to collate all necessary records, as the December 14 deadline nears. Fifteen days before the deadline, members of the transition committee started visiting different offices and departments. Yesterday, different transition sub-committees checked on the CNMI Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, the Governor's Legislative Review, the NMI Retirement Fund, and other divisions under the Office of the Governor. The teams also asked for reports and records of the said programs.

Elected senators asked to take drug test

Senate President Paul A. Manglona expressed support yesterday for Sen. David M. Cing's call for incoming senators to take a drug test as part of the process of establishing their credentials before their respective inaugurations in January. He remained noncommittal, though, when asked whether he has already made any decision on who will chair the credentials committee. Cing had expressed his desire to chair that committee. Manglona said the issue of drugs is a real concern these days due to its deleterious effect on the individual and the community. "It's a serious concern and, obviously, Senator Cing wants to make sure that we practice what we preach. He has been talking to me about this-making the drug test a requirement before any senator is sworn in-and I support him on that," he said.

Nov. 29, 2002

Guerrero quits as CIP coordinator

Newly hired Capital Improvement Project coordinator for Public School System Frank Guerrero has stepped down from his post amid talks concerning the funding for his employment. "I'm no longer there. I turned it down," said Guerrero, who is also the current chairman of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors. He did not elaborate. Guerrero made the statement a day after he attended the regular meeting of the Board of Education Monday afternoon as the Governor's CIP consultant for PSS. In an interview, Guerrero said there was still some \$11 million unexpended CIP fund for schools.

CPA to ask CNMI govt to fund Tinian, Rota airports operation

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will ask the government for funding to cover the expenses and cost of operating the Tinian and Rota airports. Port officials said they will step up their lobbying efforts with the Legislature and the Babauta administration to finance the operations of the two airports. Port officials said the move would cushion the declining revenues posted by the Saipan International Airport, which has been subsidizing the two airports for several years now. By securing operational funds from the government in fiscal year 2003, port officials said the Saipan airport would be able to focus on its own expenses and operational costs in the wake of the low traffic haul posted in FY2002.



'TIS THE SEASON

An inmate and a volunteer help decorate a 30-foot Christmas tree by climbing up a ladder to the top of the tree's interior Friday afternoon, in preparation for Friday night's 7pm Christmas tree/Nativity lighting ceremony led by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and first lady Josie Fitial at the parking lot of the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

10 scientific presentations in APASEEM conference today, tomorrow

Over the next couple of days, 10 relevant and interesting presentations will take place at the American Memorial Park auditorium on Saipan. Researchers from Hawaii and Guam will join on-island scientists and science students for the annual conference of the Asia Pacific Academy of Sciences, Science Education, and Environmental Management, or APASEEM.

Each will share information about their programs and, if applicable, findings from their recent research. The range of subjects varies across the inter-related themes of our islands' sciences, our islands' science education developments, and the management of our islands' environment.

Talks for the yearly conference are often supported by PowerPoint slides and this year, one is being supported with a regionally-developed short film. Local secondary school aviation students are presenting one topic. In one, the currently-being-developed science plan for the new Mariana Islands Marine National Monument will be dis-

cussed for the first time.

Five presentations will occur today, Nov. 29, and five will occur tomorrow, Nov. 30. Talks begin at 3:30pm and are scheduled each half hour until about 6pm. Opportunities for brief interactive questions follow each talk. Scheduled topics are as follows:

- **Tuesday, Nov. 29:** 1) "Japan, the Pacific Golden-Plover Crossroads". Dr. Roger Goodwill, Dr. Shane Gold, John Furey, and Andre Kozij; 2) "Traditional Fishing on Guam: Chamoru Chenchulu Fishermen". 28 minute movie. Dr. Judy Amesbury, Leonard Iriarte, Ray Topasna, John Ray Aguon, and Bobby Alvarez; 3) "Biological Characteristics of the Spotcheek Emperor, Lethrinus rubrioperculatus, in the Northern Mariana Islands". Michael Trianni; 4) "The reproductive cycle of *Lissocarcinus orbicularis* observed on North Shore, Oahu, Hawaii with observations from Tahiti & Saipan". Kalie Johnson, Dr. Roger Goodwill, and Dr. Dave Bybee; and 5) "Development of Junction Water Demands for the Saipan Water

Distribution System Numerical Model". Dr. Shahram Khosrowpanah, Dr. Leroy Heitz, and Mariano Iglecias.

- **Wednesday, Nov. 30:** 1) "PCB Status of Popular Table Fish from Northern and Central Sections of Saipan Lagoon." Dr. Gary R.W. Denton, Michael S. Trianni, and Michael C. Tenorio; 2) "Reproductive characteristics of the crab family Xanthidae observed on North Shore, Oahu, Hawaii with observations from Saipan". Bobbie Hanohano and Dr. Roger Goodwill; 3) "Learning about Sciences and Mathematics through the Study of Aviation, a new curriculum at Marianas High School". John Raulerson and course students; 4) "An Introduction to the Presently Being Developed Mariana Islands Marine National Monument Science Plan". Michael Trianni and Eric Breuer; and 5) "The CNMI Bio-sampling Program: An experiment in Federal, CNMI Government, and private sector cooperative fisheries research". Trey Dunn and John Gourley.

The public is invited but seat-

ing is limited, so plan to come early and note that the sequence of talks each day is subject to change.

The academy is a locally developed non-advocacy 501c3 nongovernmental organization, supported mostly with membership fees and donations, and dedicated to the sharing of pertinent science and resource management topics here in our islands. The group hosts two types of forums: one is the multi-topic annual conference, usually held at the end of November or early December; the other is a single topic special meeting, arrangeable any time of the year. Visiting researchers are encouraged to contact the academy to help arrange a public talk.

The academy also helps sponsor grant and donation-funded significant projects. An updated "Organizational Synopsis and Invitation to Join Document" is available via email. For more information or to become part of APASEEM's mailing list, contact the group's president, Ken Kramer, at 233-0009, or via email ken_kramer0886@yahoo.com. (APASEEM)

Island Snapshots

HOME FRONT VOLUNTEERS

Members of the 4th annual Operation Home Front Support gather for a group picture during Saturday's packing of care packages at Susupe Multi-Purpose Center.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PRESERVICE ORIENTATION

Below, the CNMI-PSS AmeriCorps program site supervisors, Kim Boldt and Brenda Safer, along with program director Debbie M. Diaz, center, pose with student members in Tinian after completing a weekend preservice orientation in preparation to tutor at risk students improve reading; and to serve the community to address disaster, education, environment, health, and other issues in the CNMI.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy, happy birthday to an amazingly and extraordinarily great, awesomely fabulous, fantastic, wonderful dear friend, mother, daughter and counselor, Ms. Darrah Benavente-Tagabuel, who is celebrating her birthday today, Nov. 29! May you be blessed with many, many more birthdays to come and may all your birthday dreams and wishes come true! Love always, Cal, Junie, your siblings and entire family, your counseling colleagues, Manta Ray family and your besties—Bekke, Jade, Arisa, and most especially Charisma!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday Elmie from your NMCC family! We love you!



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy first birthday to Tyler James Ruak Santos, who is celebrating his very special day today, Nov. 29, 2011! Greetings come from grandma and grandpa, nino and nina, and the Pale' Crew.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SHIRLEY'S CLEANUP

Shirley's Coffee Shop employees Antonio Feguroa, Rommel Usi, Analyn Tala, and Shirley Darantiniao help each other carry garbage bags at a beach cleanup last week at the back of Aquarius Beach Tower in Chalan Kanoa.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's Coffee Shop employees Al Galang, Henry Canete, and Armand Bait each carry a trash bag.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 283Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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For GOP, it's bland vs firebrand

By DOYLE MCMANUS

Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.

Republican voters face a choice: Do they want to play it safe, or do they feel like taking risks?

For those choosing option one, the obvious candidate is Mitt Romney, whose cautious but uninspiring campaign has attracted the support of roughly one in four Republican voters, but who can't seem to rise above that ceiling. The second, more adventurous alternative is offered by Newt Gingrich, whose edgy conservatism has boosted him to front-runner status alongside Romney, but who now faces the test of making his sometimes unorthodox views palatable to a larger audience.

The choice was on vivid display this week at the Republican foreign policy debate in Washington.

In earlier debates, foreign policy was mostly an opportunity for the candidates to join in bashing President Obama. They denounced him as too weak, too worried about what foreigners think, too easy on Iran and too hard on Israel. (Never mind that he escalated the war in Afghanistan, increased the number of drone attacks in Pakistan and killed Osama bin Laden; for most Republican candidates, a Democratic president can't be hawkish enough.)

On Tuesday, the candidates stopped lambasting Obama just long enough to have a genuine foreign policy debate, and it revealed clear differences between the two leading candidates.

Romney's foreign policy represents the Republican mainstream. The former Massachusetts governor wants more defense spending and a bigger Navy. He advocates sending more U.S. ships to the Persian Gulf to intimidate Iran into halting its nuclear weapons research and says he would consider military action as a last resort. And though he has criticized Obama's timetable for troop withdrawals from Afghanistan, he basically endorses the rest of the administration's strategy, including a drawdown of most forces by 2014.

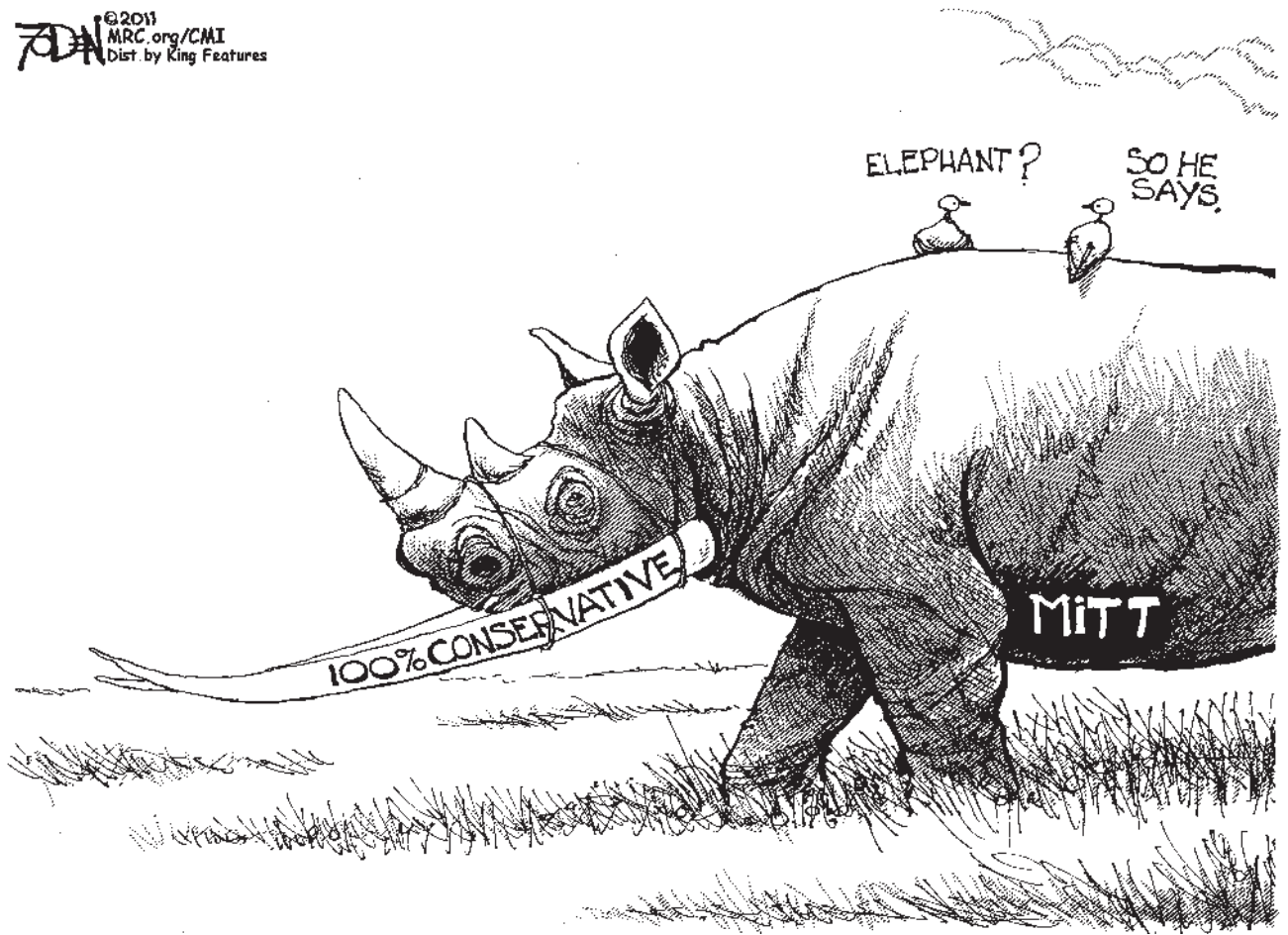
Gingrich is less conventional. He says he won't rule out cuts in military spending. "It's clear that there are some things you can do in defense that are less expensive," he said in Tuesday's debate. (Or, as he put it in an earlier debate, "I'm a hawk, but a cheap hawk.")

His policy prescriptions sometimes sound like action-movie screenplays. He says the best way to stop Iran's nuclear program is by sending secret agents to sabotage Tehran's gasoline refinery while forcing a collapse in the price of oil through increased U.S. production. And he says the war in Afghanistan should be widened, with "hot pursuit" raids by U.S. ground troops into Pakistan. "You tell the Pakistanis: Help us or get out of the way, but don't complain if we kill people you're not willing to go after on your territory," he said.

The contrast even appeared when the candidates were asked what future threats kept them awake at night. Romney chose a careful, conventional response: the growing power of China, terrorists in Latin America. Gingrich headed straight for the new terrors of the high-tech future: cyber attacks and the threat of electromagnetic pulse.

Poor Romney. He's tried all year to sound hawkish. He's denounced Obama (inaccurately) for "apologizing for America," and

See GOP on Next Page

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It, me, and we

Our reflections on Thanksgiving Day led us to thoughts over the question of choices we make in the fundamental issues of our lives, and on turkey day, our introspection helped me to embrace the reality that is given to us, whether it be the genetics of inheritance in our nature, or the consequence of our environmental nurture.

The specter of normal ordinary human beings going berserk in the department store line so consumers can reach the "sale" advantage some spend their midnight for, to get to Black Friday, gives credence to our behavioral psychologists' conviction that all of us act on the basis of animal programming embedded in our genes, where violence and aggression for survival trumps sociality's sanity and compassion.

The nature v. nurture debate rages in many academic circles and our propensity to divide issues so one side is pitted against the other has proven to be unhelpful. The U.S. Congress supercommittee that was handed incredible powers to arrive at a consensus on the government's debt crisis decided not to decide. Ideological divide and partisan political allegiance prevailed.

(At least, our local politicians are unambiguous about their relationship to law. Re retirement fund indebtedness, GovCNMI just ignores the court's ruling to ante up its past obligations; instead, it is using some of its more brilliant legal minds to delay any substantive action on the matter.)

This may actually be providential. It highlights the fact that the crisis at hand is not simply a matter of adjusting the currency rates (as we keep insisting should be done if only those guardians of the renminbi would consent to pay for our extravagance by triggering domestic inflation) but rather, it requires a rethinking and transformation of the whole financial basis of the global economy itself, heretofore defined by Wall Street. The overextended financial institutions have become too fat and unwieldy to right itself up. Besides, finances are simply the medium of exchange for concrete values like resource utilization and production systems, forces, and schemes. Finance on consumables devoid of any sense of value makes us bring mace to Black Friday!

Making strict dichotomies since the Persian Zoroaster drew the line between good and evil, truth and falsity, has been the bane of our existence, the last being Mr. George W. Bush's conviction (along with Dick and Donald) that we hold the side of the good guys, and "them infidels" who are not within our corporate family represent the axis of evil!

Alas, even Obama-san seems incapable of distancing himself from the aforementioned line, and in Asia where the drums of U.S. military vigilance has accelerated its heartbeat, the season's message of "Peace on Earth, goodwill to humankind" or even just "Peace to people of goodwill" will just have to wait a few more years!

Obviously, neither the captains of industry, or the lords of bloated financial institutions, or the indecisive guardians of public discourse will lead us into the future. The chaos of the Occupy forces makes it clear that the primal scream emanates from Main Street where

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



ordinary Juana de la Cruz of the Sabalu market will have to initiate the transformative move. She'll have to begin describing her experience, express the existential impact and her feelings on being a commercial unit, articulate her thoughts, and join forces with others to map out a course of action at the local level to guard her selfish market interest.

To build anew sometimes entails serious deconstruction. The first to go is the politico-blabbered CoC notion that we operate out of a free market. A report on four financial institutions—Wells Fargo, Bank of America, Citigroup, and JPMorgan-Chase—shows that the four megaliths that have become "too big to fail" are the result of 33 other financial concerns being gobbled up in the last 15 years of mergers and acquisitions that hides real assets and inflates value with the magic touch of auditors.

But Juana's task is not on what she will forego, and more on what she can do, which begins at the level of operating images, the unit of knowledge that determines behavior. Our pedagogy does not see much value in whining over past shortcomings, and shaking in fear over the uncertainty of the future. The current knowledge contenders for *carpe diem* are the "it"-approach of science, and the "me"-approach of market psych. Science transcends its subject by making the observer stand apart from the object of its observation. This is heavy on the cause-and-effect explanation and the "it" of causality reigns.

But the observer cannot be divorced from the object of observation so the subjective "me" whose propensities are exploited by the market that relies on chance based on the statistics of focus-groups and immanent testimonies gambles on the probability of certain responses to stimuli, to prevail. The assumption is that "me"'s demonstrated survival skills through the centuries will most likely enable self-preservation.

Happily, we are constituted on the "we"-approach. "We the People" is our credo, and though we do not often take that seriously, it is nevertheless, the basis of our 237 years of political existence as a nation of federated States. "We" is rooted on choice, which is freely exercised under both the purview of cause and chance. We choose our causality and probability! We are currently engaging in the global declaration of interdependence!

Cause, chance, and choice need not be exclusive of each other. We are served best when we operate out of all three—it, me, and we!

We the People, Juana, is where we begin. Shall we dance?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wrong state of mind

By **ALFRED A. PANGELINAN**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

I have called and offered legitimate employers our new direction and programs that can assist them to deal with their needs when the zero-down date nears. Legitimate employers are faced with a challenge to hire the best-qualified and available U.S. workers to meet their need.

This period provides the opportunity for U.S. workers to find, keep, and grow in career-oriented jobs that they would enjoy doing. There are so far over a thousand-some CW1 petitions that had been received. This means that these jobs will become available right around the corner and if the employers had no choice but to look at the U.S. worker pool so that they can supplement their daily and traditional business activities to succeed, they would want the best qualified worker to fill the need.

U.S. workers must never believe that employers may not have a choice so work will be handed out as freebies to them. This is a wrong state of mind when you are on a job hunt. What it calls for is the challenge for all U.S. workers to better their job outlook so they can look, feel, and be the best during their competitive stages. All employers want the best worker who is trustworthy, dependable, and reliable in performing the job he/she was hired to do.

You need to look into what is motivating you for a job. Avoid the belief that you are only looking for a job to survive. It will present a barrier to employment, where employers would not want to hire you. They want to sense that you will stay when hired and that their company will benefit from you. Look into a possible career-oriented job. This is something that you start from the bottom of the career ladder transition and develop an upward mobility to achieve your goal.

How and what U.S. workers will wear, look, and appear in front of the employer is related to good attitude skills. Stop the belief that you can wear shorts, sleeveless shirt, stinky body and bad breath odor, wearing hats, uncombed hair, overkill jewelry and makeup when picking up and submitting applications at the employer's place of business or during an interview process. Employers are always on the lookout for good grooming and appearance from candidate who appears at their place of business.

GOP

From Page 10

he has vowed to preserve American strength. He's promised to visit Israel on his first foreign trip as president and pledged that if he's elected, Iran "will not have a nuclear weapon."

And now he's in danger of being trumped by Gingrich, whose impatience is in stark contrast to Romney's careful policy statements. "If we were serious, we could break the Iranian regime, I think, within a year," Gingrich said. "There are lots of things you can do if you decide to break out of the current mindless bureaucracy of this city and just get the job done."

It's not clear, of course, that Gingrich's breezily confident proposals would work in the real world. Can the United States really increase energy production enough to collapse the price of oil in the short term? Wouldn't Iran view sabotage attacks on its gasoline refinery as acts of war, and respond accordingly? And would Pakistan, already touchy about U.S. drone attacks, accept ground incursions by U.S. troops without shooting back?

Gingrich also needs to sell skeptical GOP voters on some of his domestic ideas, such as his proposal on Tuesday that illegal immigrants be offered a "red card"—a permit to work in the United States without a promise of permanent residence or citizenship.

There are others in the debate too. Former Utah Gov. Jon Huntsman Jr. has been arguing for lower defense spending, fewer military commitments and more focus on the domestic economy and foreign trade. And Texas Rep. Ron Paul has remained the libertarian gadfly in the race, insisting that most military and diplomatic engagement overseas is a waste of money. But there's no sign that GOP voters are turning their way.

Most Republican primary voters aren't likely to base their presidential choices on the weedy specifics of the candidates' foreign policy positions; this election is still mostly about domestic economic issues. But they will ask themselves which candidate seems more reassuring as a commander in chief.

Will they choose Romney's blandness or Gingrich's pugnacity?

These are just a couple of tips for U.S. workers to know. The CNMI Department of Labor has developed programs to assist U.S. workers in improving their job outlook before referring them to an employer's place of business. We will also link them with other agencies where they can acquire skills in enhancing their labor development.

Come in and visit us, or call 664-3190 and ask for Manning Iguel, Roy Tairope, and Radbert Solomon for assistance. They

are at your service at all times. Don't wait for a last-minute job search. Start grooming yourself to meet the employer's demand now. You have time to go through any process to improve your job outlook. Your opportunity is knocking and whatever you do, don't miss it.

Alfred A. Pangelinan is director of Division of Employment Services at the CNMI Department of Labor.

Letters to the Editor

Here we go again!

Here we go again with Episode 9 in the never-ending drama called "Ben Fitial vs the U.S. government." Gov. Fitial is now asking the feds to do their job of ridding the CNMI of illegal immigrants and rid it of people who are willing to work for \$5.05 an hour (why haven't YOU increased the minimum wage, Ben?)

Instead of putting the blame where it belongs, you are using illegal aliens as your scapegoat as to why there aren't any jobs for locals. After telling the feds it was wrong and unfair for Homeland Security to step in and take over control of immigration (because the CNMI government was unable or unwilling to control or manage the issue,) you now have the stones to complain that the feds aren't doing their job. Make up your mind, Ben! Does anyone else find this highly comical?

Why are you so worried about illegal aliens? If the USCIS process is followed, how in the world would an illegal alien get paroled to stay in the CNMI? My understanding then is that YOU don't understand the process. Have you bothered to stop and ask yourself WHY there are so many aliens in the CNMI? Obviously not, as it was you and other governors of the CNMI who opened the floodgates to allow many thousands more into the CNMI, *after* ignoring the recommendations of the Clinton Administration and then in turn the Bush Administration to limit and reduce the number of foreign workers in the Commonwealth or risk losing control of local immigration. (Strangely, we haven't heard from Froilan or Stanley in regards to this issue. Could it be that wisely, they have been off-island in Vegas or they have realized that this is a non-issue?)

The other issue here is your ongoing highly public battle with Kilili. Are you jealous, Ben? Do you feel threatened by the fact that Kilili has the brains, skills, and the motivation to actually try and find some sort of remedy to this mess that you've helped create? What is so wrong with working to find a solution to a hastily drafted, insensitive law that does not take into consideration the parents, siblings, and spouses of U.S. citizens? Do you resent that he is actually getting something accomplished in an attempt to fix this fiasco? What have you done to help fix this? Have you bothered to get involved? Have you reached out to Washington D.C. at all? It doesn't look like you have.

What you have done is nothing, except threaten a lawsuit to stop

Kudos, governor

I would like to give kudos to the governor. He has opposed the USCIS, stating: Thousands of people will remain who don't have jobs, who continue to drain scarce social resources in the areas of health, education, and welfare. Those who have jobs will continue to send money off-island rather than contributing to a growing economy. And, with non-citizen workers willing to work in highly skilled jobs for \$5.05 an hour, the economy of the CNMI will remain weak.

This is what I'm talking about. If everyone in the CNMI, including CW workers refuses to work for \$5.05 an hour, wages have to go up. If each CW worker will work for \$5.05 an hour or less, it keeps wages down. It's not good for the economy or society. This gives the employers the advantage and control over the island. The employers who do this are normally not Western-owned companies, but the same nationalities that gave the CNMI a bad name with the garment factories.

People who are unemployed and/or have numerous children that are being educated, medicated, and fed for free, but do not help improve society or work, other than waiting for their monthly stipend from the government to come in drain the resources.

USCIS. This chicken-little-the-sky-is-falling knee-jerk reaction to USCIS is your signature way of dealing with things you either don't like or rather, things you don't understand. (It's strange that your lackey AG is onboard with you in this as well. He obviously should've been able to read the law, grasp it's meaning then walk you through it. Maybe you both would get it and then you could stop your foolish political games.) We can only hope....

You say you have a heart and only have the best interests of the people of the CNMI at the core of your desire to try and do away with USCIS (good luck with that, by the way. You are just as powerless in this situation as you were when you tried to intervene in the relocation of Marines from Okinawa). Here's a reminder Ben: EVERY U.S. citizen in the CNMI is who you should be supporting. Not just the ones you want to. EVERY child born in the CNMI should be at the top of your list to assist in this nasty, deplorable situation. Just because some of these US citizens happen to have parents from outside the USA does not mean you have the right to decide who stays and who goes.

It would seem from your rhetoric these last few days is that you are being racist in your desire to stop USCIS and that you are 100 percent in favor of the breaking up of families of U.S. citizens. Is that how you take care of the CNMI? Why don't you try and put yourself in the shoes of just one of these families that are in danger of being broken up. This doesn't just involve children or parents. Spouses are also being affected. Can you even comprehend or understand the fear and anguish that they are going through? It's called empathy, Mr. Governor, and it's criminal what this law is doing to families. Plain and simple. But then again, it would seem this is business as usual for you. Families of the CNMI have previously gone through a period of being royally screwed by the US government, when the population of the CNMI was locked up in camps at the end of World War II. Ask your parents how that made them feel. Or maybe, Ben, you remember and have chosen to forget. In that instance of monumental U.S. government incompetence, at least your families were allowed to stay together...

Paul H. Beebe
Spokane, Washington

By asking these individuals to become responsible and providing them jobs and work skills at the same time will improve the CNMI drastically.

Lastly, the world will never run out of money. It's true, there will never be a shortage of money or wealth. However, if individuals continue to send 50 percent of their income off island per month, it becomes a drain on society as that potential wealth is lost for good. The local markets don't receive income, they can't employ employees, who can't take care of their families here. The local government can't tax that money and eventually loses 25 percent of that money sent off island per month in revenues. No tax money, no repairs on the roads, austerity, lack of services, high CUC bills, dirty beaches, bad economy etc., etc., etc. Eventually the only fresh money coming to the island will from the U.S. government and tourists, of which 50 percent or more is leaving per month. One hundred percent needs to stay in order for the economy to improve. Kudos governor, you were spot on.

Keith Brooks
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 74
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 74
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 79

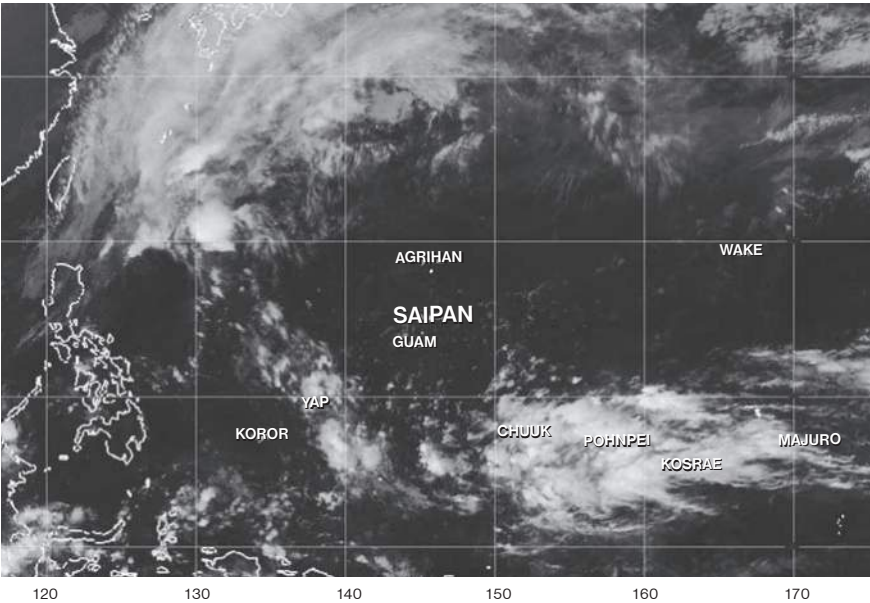
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 59
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 37 ▼ 20
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 72
London	Windy	▲ 55 ▼ 43
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 52
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 89 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 62 ▼ 58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 79 ▼ 56
New York	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 47
Osaka	Showers	▲ 68 ▼ 52
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 53 ▼ 41
Pusan	Showers	▲ 56 ▼ 48
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 44
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 40
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 50
Seoul	Showers	▲ 45 ▼ 39
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 62 ▼ 50
Washington, DC	Rain	▲ 63 ▼ 43

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
4:22 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet	
11:36 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet	
5:11 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet	
9:37 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A shear line runs westward from 25N170E to 24N150E then turns northwestward to go beyond 25N at 143E. Cloudiness and scattered showers are found along and up to 300 miles north of this boundary. Scattered showers are developing along the leading edge of a trade-wind surge east of Yap within 140 miles of a line from 15N136E to the equator and 148E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over much of eastern Micronesia including Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Majuro between 10N and 3N from 151E to 173E. Converging southeast winds combined with a large upper-level trough over China are generating extensive cloudiness. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms well northwest of the Marianas northwest of a line from 15N130E and 25N141E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:26 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:27 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:28 AM	5:45 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:56 AM	9:43 PM
Wednesday	10:42 AM	10:36 PM
Thursday	11:24 AM	11:27 PM
Friday	12:03 PM	
Saturday	12:40 PM	12:16 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am 1, 5 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/179 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily				
Saipan-Rota				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



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Business

Retailers have a robust start to holiday season

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP RETAIL WRITER

More Americans hunted for bargains over the weekend than ever before as retailers lured them online and into stores with big discounts and an earlier-than-usual start to the holiday shopping season.

A record 226 million shoppers visited stores and websites during the four-day holiday weekend starting on Thanksgiving Day, up from 212 million last year, according to early estimates by The National Retail Federation released on Sunday. Americans spent more, too: The average holiday shopper spent \$398.62 over the weekend, up from \$365.34 a year ago.

Art and Anna Destrada from Port Chester, N. Y., were among the holiday shoppers. They

started shopping on Thanksgiving evening at a Walmart store, went to various malls in New Jersey on Friday, and got some deals at Macy's on Saturday. They spent a total of \$2,000 on gifts for themselves and others, including a Wii videogame console, clothing and jewelry.

"We've saved for Christmas and put away money all year," says Anna Destrada, 49. "We stayed within our means so we can make a few splurges."

The results for the first holiday shopping weekend show that retailers' efforts to lure shoppers during the weak economy are working. Some like Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and J.C. Penney have been making a stronger push online to better compete with the likes of rival Amazon.com. And major chains like Macy's, Target, Best Buy extended the

traditional start to the shopping season by opening their doors at midnight on Thanksgiving evening instead of the pre-dawn Friday hours of years past.

But the question remains whether retailers' will be able to hold shoppers' attention throughout the remainder of the season, which can account for 25 to 40 percent of a merchant's annual revenue. After all, Americans are still very driven by deep discounting and they're more conscious of their spending budgets.

Overall, holiday spending is expected to grow by a modest 2.8 percent to about \$466 billion, according to the NRF. A fuller picture on spending will come Thursday when major retailers report their November sales figures. But for now, experts agree that retailers will

likely have to continue to discount to get shoppers to spend.

"The big question is: How do you close the season?" says Hana Ben-Shabat, a partner at A. T. Kearney's retail practice. "This is a very promotional driven shopper."

Indeed, the earlier hours—which meant earlier door-buster deals—on Black Friday seemed to be what drew many shoppers in over the weekend, particularly the younger crowd.

According to the National Retail Federation, 24 percent of Black Friday shoppers were at stores at midnight. That's up from 9.5 percent the year before when only a few stores were open during that time. Of those shopping at midnight on Black Friday, 37 percent were in the 18-to-34 age group.

"Black Friday has evolved from an early morning shopping activity to a late night entertainment," says Ellen Davis, spokeswoman at The National Retail Federation. "A lot of

people stayed up until 1 a.m. or 2 a.m. to go shopping, and then went to bed."

The remainder of the day went well, too.

Mall of America, the nation's largest mall, broke its Black Friday record with about 210,000 shoppers. And Taubman Centers, which manages or leases 26 shopping centers in 13 states, says sales were up anywhere from mid- to low double digits on Friday, compared with a year ago.

Overall, Black Friday sales were \$11.4 billion, up 7 percent, or nearly \$1 billion from the same day last year, according to a report by ShopperTrak, which gathers data from 25,000 outlets across the country. It was the largest amount ever spent on that day and the biggest year-over-year increase since 2007. Additionally, customer counts climbed 5.1 percent that day compared with a year ago.

Online shopping on Black Friday was especially strong.

Research firm comScore reported on Sunday that online spending jumped 26 percent on Black Friday to \$816 million, compared with \$648 million on the same day a year ago.

Some experts worry the strong start will cannibalize sales during the remainder of the season. Indeed, many people who headed to the malls after Black Friday weren't spending.

At the Crabtree Valley Mall in Raleigh, N.C., it was busy on Saturday, but many shoppers did not have bags. Likewise, at Pioneer Place mall in Portland, Ore., on Saturday, a number of shoppers were doing more window-shopping for the best deals than actual buying.

David Van Veen, 25, for one, says he was looking for deals on work clothes. But he says he'll likely wait to get gifts and other holiday items—perhaps when the deals are better—later in the season.

"I'll wait until Dec. 23 to start shopping I think," he says.

China 'keen' to invest in West's infrastructure

BEIJING (AP)—China's sovereign wealth fund wants to invest in improving neglected U.S. and European roads and other infrastructure to spur global growth, the fund's chairman said in comments published Monday.

The announcement reflects a shift in strategy for the \$410 billion fund, which was created in 2007. Until now, it has limited its investments mostly to small stakes in publicly traded companies to avoid stirring political opposition overseas.

China Investment Corp. wants to begin in Britain by teaming up with fund managers or investing directly in infrastructure projects, Lou Jiwei said in a commentary in London's Financial Times newspaper.

"China is keen to get involved" in improving U.S. and European infrastructure, which "badly needs more investment," Lou wrote. He cited energy, water, transport, digital communications and waste disposal but gave no indication of possible projects or the size of Chinese investment.

Some commentators in both

Europe and China have suggested Beijing might use its \$3.2 trillion in foreign reserves to gain leverage on political or trade issues at a time when other governments urgently want investment.

CIC was created to invest abroad in hopes of earning a better return on China's foreign reserves, the bulk of which are in U.S. and European government bonds. It says investments are made on commercial rather than political grounds.

The move into infrastructure probably reflects CIC's commercial views, rather than those of the government, said Citigroup economist Minghao Shen. He said it could help CIC earn a more stable profit and reduce Beijing's exposure to U.S. and European government bonds amid volatile markets.

Some Chinese commentators have called for Beijing to reduce its exposure to the financial woes of Western governments by buying fewer bonds. China is Washington's biggest foreign bondholder, with \$1.15 trillion in Treasury debt as of September.

"There is a general thought that maybe China should not invest in U.S. Treasuries or European sovereign bonds. Instead, why can't we hold direct assets in the economy?" Shen said.

By investing in individual projects, he said, "you don't have to depend on government guarantees and it should be affected less by the sovereign debt crisis."

CIC faced criticism over the performance of investments made just as the financial crisis was developing. But its results have improved and the fund reported an 11.7 percent return on assets last year.

Lou stressed that CIC is a commercial investor and wants to make a profit.

"CIC believes that such an investment, guided by commercial principles, offers the chance of a win-win solution for all," he wrote.

Lou gave no indication in which other countries the CIC might invest but cited an estimate that the United States needs to spend at least \$2.2 trillion in infrastructure repairs or rebuilding.



In this Friday, Nov. 25, 2011 file photo, shoppers enter a Best Buy store after a midnight opening, in Brentwood, Tenn.

French official: New pact needed for eurozone

PARIS (AP)—An "overhaul" of European treaties is needed to help restore market confidence in the eurozone's ability to reduce high state debt and deficits, the French budget minister said Sunday.

Valerie Pécresse said a new governance pact among eurozone members could include "real regulators, real sanctions" to help restore confidence in the currency union.

Speaking on Canal Plus TV, she said the eurozone's biggest economies—France, Germany and Italy—want to be the "motor" of a more integrated Europe.

"We won't restore confidence unless we show proof—very quickly—about the unflinching solidarity and solidarity of the eurozone," Pécresse said.

Pécresse said each country

must rid itself of the debt and deficit problems that are behind the continent's deepening debt crisis.

German media reported this weekend that German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Nicolas Sarkozy are pushing for swift legal changes that would force eurozone members to comply with strict rules for budget discipline, like tough and easily enforceable sanctions for violators.

Sarkozy and Merkel have argued that the European Union's treaties must be amended to guarantee a strict enforcement of the currency zone's growth and stability pact.

Treaty changes, however, are complicated to engineer and take a lot of time—probably more than the troubled euro-

zone currently has with markets doubting the solidity of several member states such as Italy.

One alternative could be a treaty between the governments involved, which would later be merged into EU law—as has happened before with Europe's Schengen visa-free travel agreement, German newspapers Welt am Sonntag and Bild reported.

The new initiative could be announced as early as this week and concluded early next year, Welt am Sonntag reported.

Germany's government, in a statement Sunday, did not comment on the question of an intergovernmental treaty but said it's continuing to push for changes to the EU treaty to be discussed at a summit next month in a bid to strengthen the currency union.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Iraq signs gas deal with Shell, Mitsubishi

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq on Sunday signed a multibillion-dollar deal with Royal Dutch Shell PLC and Japan's Mitsubishi Corp. to tap natural gas in the south, one of the biggest agreements by the OPEC member to develop an energy sector battered by years of neglect and war. The \$17 billion deal forms a joint venture to gather, process and market gas from three oil fields in the oil-rich province of Basra. That gas, pumped in conjunction with crude oil, is currently burned off—or flared—due to lack of infrastructure. The 25-year joint venture is called Basra Gas Company. Iraq will hold a 51 percent stake, to Royal Dutch Shell's 44 percent and Mitsubishi's 5 percent shares. The gas will be used mainly for domestic energy needs, but there is also an option for exports.

Restaurants plan DNA-certified premium seafood

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Restaurants around the world will soon use new DNA technology to assure patrons they are being served the genuine fish fillet or caviar they ordered, rather than inferior substitutes, an expert in genetic identification says. In October, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration officially approved so-called DNA barcoding—a standardized fingerprint that can identify a species like a supermarket scanner reads a barcode—to prevent the mislabeling of both locally produced and imported seafood in the United States. Other national regulators around the world are also considering adopting DNA barcoding as a fast, reliable and cost-effective tool for identifying organic matter.

Nation

US student says he was beaten after Cairo arrest

By KELLY DASCHLE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forced to lie still for hours in the dark, the American students held during protests in Egypt were told they would be shot if they moved or made any noise, one of them said Sunday on his first full day home.

"It was the most frightening experience of my life, I believe," Derrik Sweeney said.

Speaking to The Associated Press by Skype from Jefferson City, Mo., Sweeney said the evening of Nov. 20 started peacefully in Cairo, with Tahrir Square "abuzz with ideas of democracy and freedom."

The three wandered the streets and wound up in a large group of protesters outside the Interior Ministry, Sweeney said. The demonstrations escalated, with the protesters yelling and perhaps throwing stones, he said.

"Eventually the police shot back something, I'm not exactly sure what," he said. "We didn't wait to see. But as soon as we



saw some sort of firing coming from the gun and heard it, the whole crowd stampeded out and we sprinted away."

He said they fled to an area that seemed calmer and were approached by four or five Egyptians in plain clothes.

The Egyptians offered to lead them to safety but instead took them into custody, Sweeney said.

They were threatened to be force-fed gasoline, beaten and forced to lie in a near-fetal position in the dark for six hours

with their hands in cuffs behind their backs, Sweeney said. He said they were told: "If you move or make any noise, we will shoot you."

"They were hitting us in the face and in the back of the neck," he said. "Not to the point

AP
Derrik Sweeney, 19, of Jefferson City, Mo., smiles as he walks with his mother, Joy Sweeney, center, and sister Ashley Sweeney after arriving at Lambert-St. Louis International Airport Saturday, Nov. 26, 2011, in St. Louis.

of bleeding or I can't say I have any lasting major scars at this point, but they were hitting us."

Sweeney is 19 and studies at Georgetown University. He was arrested along with Luke Gates, 21, who attends Indiana University and is from Bloomington, Ind., and Gregory Porter, 19, who studies at Drexel University and is from Glenside, Pa.

The students flew home Saturday after an Egyptian court ordered their release two days earlier. The three were studying abroad at American University in Cairo, which is near Tahrir Square.

A popular uprising earlier this year forced out Egypt's long-time autocratic leader, Hosni Mubarak. But the democratic age that Egyptians hoped for

has not followed. The military is in control, and protesters want it to hand power to civilians.

At least 43 protesters have been killed since Nov. 19 and 2,000 wounded, most of them in Cairo. Landmark parliamentary elections will start Monday.

Egyptian officials said they arrested the three students on the roof of a university building and accused them of throwing firebombs at security forces fighting with protesters.

But Sweeney denies doing anything to harm anyone and said he and the other Americans weren't ever on the roof or handling or throwing explosives.

"I don't know where that rooftop idea actually came from," he said. "We were never on a rooftop, we never entered a building. The American University campus building on that street where we were arrested—there were a lot of people that had broken in there, it was swarmed with protesters—but we were not on there. We were on a street."

New Mass translation launches in American parishes

CLAYTON, N.C. (AP)—English-speaking Roman Catholics who have regularly attended Mass for years found themselves in an unfamiliar position Sunday, needing printed cards or sheets of paper to follow along with a ritual many have known since childhood.

"I don't think I said it the right way once," said Matthew Hoover, who attends St. Ann Catholic Church in Clayton, a growing town on the edge of the Raleigh suburbs. "I kept forgetting, and saying the old words."

The Mass itself—the central ritual of the Catholic faith—hasn't changed, but the English translation has, in the largest shakeup to the everyday faith of believers since the upheavals that followed the Second Vatican Council in the 1960s. A years-long process

of revision and negotiation led to an updated version of the Roman Missal, the text of prayers and instructions for celebrating Mass, which originally was written in Latin. The new translation was rolled out across the English-speaking Catholic world on Sunday after months of preparation.

Mickey Mattox, a professor at Milwaukee's Marquette University, said he was happy with the idea that the bishops wanted the translations as accurate as possible.

Adapting to the changes "was a lot less difficult than I thought it might be," said Mattox, 55, adding, "even though probably all of us are going to end up holding our worship folders for a few weeks until we memorize all the new language."

The Rev. George Witt, pas-

tor of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola on New York's Park Avenue, started the 11 a.m. Mass by noting Sunday was not only the first day of Advent, but also the first day to use the new Missal. He directed parishioners to a pamphlet inserted into the back of the now-outdated hymnal that spelled out the new wording. A notable number of worshippers stumbled after the priest said, "Peace be with you." The new response is "And with your spirit" instead of "And also with you." But many others confidently gave the right response.

Kathleen McCormack, a church volunteer and former school teacher, said she didn't like the new translation and didn't understand why the church needed a translation closer to Latin.

Occupy LA deadline comes, many say they won't go

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Hundreds of Occupy Los Angeles protesters showed no sign they planned to move Sunday ahead of a city-imposed midnight deadline to abandon their encampment, saying they would instead hold an "eviction block party."

Although city officials have told demonstrators they must leave the weeks-old protest site and take their nearly 500 tents with them by 12:01 a.m. Monday, just a handful were seen packing up Sunday.

Instead, some passed out fliers containing the city seal and the words: "By order of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, this notice terminates your tenancy and requires you to attend the Occupy L.A. Eviction Block Party."

"The best way to keep a non-

violent movement non-violent is to throw a party, and keep it festive and atmospheric," said Brian Masterson as he helped a friend break down her tent. "And I'm going to be doing as much as I can to stop violence."

He said he had turned his own tent into a "non-violent booby trap" by filling it with sandbags to make it tough to tear down.

"We can't beat the LAPD, but we can make it difficult for them to do their job, and have fun while we're doing it," Masterson said.

Villaraigosa issued a statement a few hours before the deadline Sunday night, outlining the city's plan and his hopes for a "spirit of cooperation."

He said that even after the park's official closure police

"will allow campers ample time to remove their belongings peacefully and without disruption."

Villaraigosa said police and social workers will walk through the park handing out information on the closure and services available.

The mayor did not say what tactics authorities would use for those who refuse to leave—or when they will begin using them.

The atmosphere was already festive Sunday afternoon. A punk-pop band played protest songs on one of the lawns. The protest's artists were out in great numbers showing their work, and twice the usual number of news trucks surrounded the tent city.

Gingrich wins NH backing as Romney plugs along

WASHINGTON (AP)—Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich landed the endorsement of New Hampshire's largest newspaper on Sunday while rival Mitt Romney earned a dismissive wave, potentially resetting the race in the state with the first-in-the-nation primary.

For Gingrich, the former House speaker, the backing builds on his recent rise in the polls and quick work to build a campaign after a disastrous start in the summer. Romney, the former Massachusetts governor who has a vacation home in the state and has been called a "nearly native son of New Hampshire," absorbed the blow heading into the Jan. 10 vote that's vital to his campaign strategy.

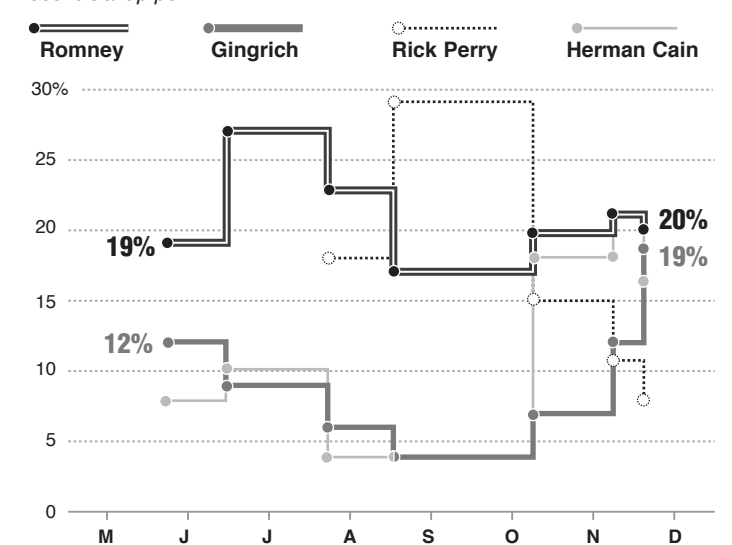
"We don't back candidates based on popularity polls or big-shot backers. We look for conservatives of courage and conviction who are independent-minded, grounded in their core beliefs about this nation and its people, and best equipped for the job," The New Hampshire Union Leader said in its front-page editorial, which was as much a promotion of Gingrich as a discreet rebuke of Romney.

The Union Leader's editorial telegraphed conservatives' concerns about Romney's shifts on crucial issues of abortion and gay rights were unlikely to fade. Those worries have led Romney to keep Iowa's Jan. 3 caucuses—where conservatives hold great sway—at arm's length.

At the same time, the endorsement boosts Gingrich's conservative credentials. He

Gingrich gains on Romney

Solid debate performances have helped presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich close in on Republican Party front-runner Mitt Romney in a recent Gallup poll.



NOTE: Polls of Republicans and GOP-leaning independents have been taken periodically since May, Perry joined the race in July; other candidates not shown
Source: Gallup Graphic: Raoul Ranao, Los Angeles Times © 2011 MCT

spent the week defending his immigration policies against accusations that they are a form of amnesty. On Monday, Gingrich takes a campaign swing through South Carolina, the South's first primary state.

Romney, taking a few days' break for the Thanksgiving holiday, has kept focused on a long-term strategy that doesn't lurch from one development to another. Last week, he picked up the backing of Sen. John Thune, a South Dakota conservative, to add to his impressive roster of supporters.

The Union Leader's rejection of Romney wasn't surprising despite his efforts to woo state leaders. The newspaper rejected Romney four years ago in favor of Arizona Sen. John McCain, using front-page columns and

editorials to promote McCain and criticize Romney.

"It helped McCain a lot because it buttressed the time he spent there. McCain camped out in New Hampshire and was able to make good with The Union Leader," said Craig Stevens, a spokesman for Romney's 2008 bid who is not working for a presidential candidate this time.

"Now, the speaker has to spend the time there, too," Stevens said.

Since his first run, Romney courted publisher Joseph W. McQuaid. Earlier this year Romney and his wife, Ann, had dinner with the McQuaids at the Bedford Village Inn near Manchester, hoping to reset the relationship. It didn't prove enough.

Asia

Receding floods reveal crocs lurking in Bangkok

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Murky floodwaters are receding from Bangkok's inundated outskirts to reveal some scary swamp dwellers who moved in while flooded residents were moving out—including crocodiles and some of the world's most poisonous snakes.

Special teams from the Thai Fishery Department have responded to numerous reports of reptilian menaces, like the 3-foot-long (meter-long) croc that Anchalee Wannawet saw sitting next to the outhouse one morning, its toothy jaw wide open.

"I ran away, and it ran into there," the 23-year-old said, pointing toward the reedy swamp behind the construction site where she works in Bangkok's northern Sai Mai district. "I haven't dared to go the bathroom since. I'm peeing in a can."

Thailand has long been a center for the breeding, exporting and trafficking of exotic animals, especially crocodiles.

Farmed both legally and illegally, crocs are popular because of the value they fetch for their meat, bones and especially their skins, used to make luxury bags and accessories.

This year's record monsoon rains, which prompted Thailand's worst flooding in a half century and killed more than 600 people, also swamped some of the country's estimated 3,000 crocodile farms. Many of the reptiles escaped—though probably not as many as residents think they are seeing around the city.

"We get a lot of reports at the Fishery Department, but only about 5 to 10 percent of them turn out to be true," said Praphan Lipayakun, a fishery department official, adding that many false reports end up being large monitor lizards, which are generally shy and harmless.

"We even get reports of people being bitten, but when we follow up, we can't get in touch with the supposed patient, or when

contacted, the doctor that treated the wound says that it in no way resembled a crocodile bite."

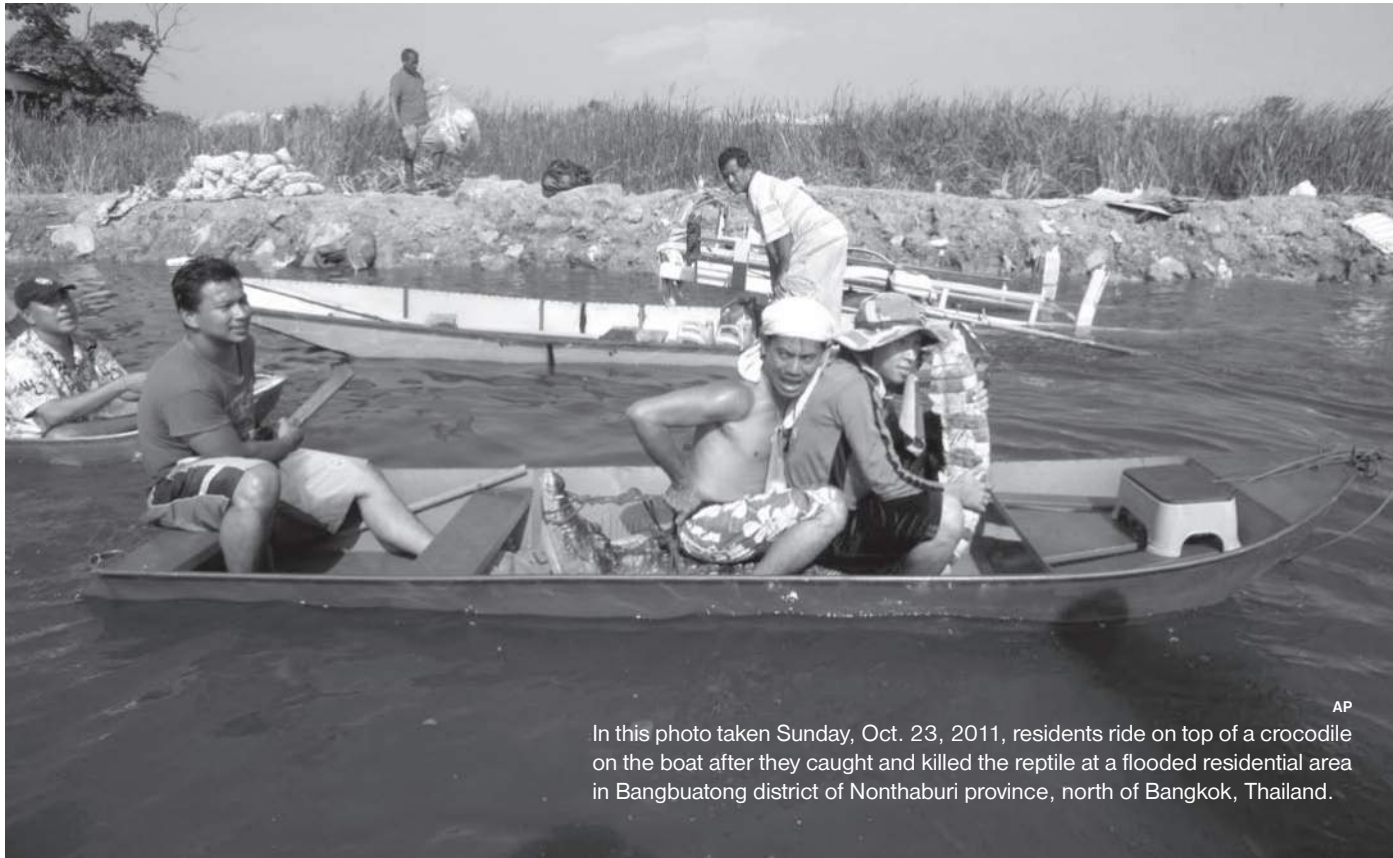
Still, officials and volunteer veterinarians have confirmed many flood-affected animals on the loose or in distress—and not only reptiles.

A team of volunteer veterinarians rescued scores of animals—from deer and Capuchin monkeys to lions, tigers and bears—from the yards and homes of Thailand's rich.

"Most of the ones we found in the Bangkok area are pri-

vately owned, and a lot of them are for fun or for pleasure—like a farm or some exotic species in the house," said Nantarika Chansue, president of the Zoo and Wildlife Veterinary Society of Thailand and a member of the team of volunteers.

"Some of the owners left home already and left the animals in the cage as the water rose. Some of them have illegal animals and are afraid of being prosecuted, so they are afraid to tell us and just leave them there."



AP
In this photo taken Sunday, Oct. 23, 2011, residents ride on top of a crocodile on the boat after they caught and killed the reptile at a flooded residential area in Bangbuatong district of Nonthaburi province, north of Bangkok, Thailand.

Karzai: Afghan forces to take lead in more areas

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai said Sunday that the nation's forces will soon take charge of security in areas of the country that are home to half of Afghanistan's population.

The handover, expected to begin by early next year, is the second step in a transition that Karzai hopes will leave Afghan forces in control of the entire country by the end of 2014, when the U.S.-led coalition's combat mission is scheduled to end. After that date, a much smaller foreign force will remain to continue training Afghan soldiers and police and battle militancy.

A successful handover is key to NATO's plan to withdraw most of its combat forces from Afghanistan after more than a decade of fighting there. Western officials and experts have expressed pessimism about the ability of Karzai and his armed forces to assume command of their country. If they fail, the militant Taliban could stage a comeback.

Karzai's announcement means that Afghan forces already are, or soon will, lead security in eight of Afghanistan's 34 provinces and nearly a dozen provincial capitals. Most of the areas on the second list are in the north and west, but it also includes places that have experienced recent attacks, as well as parts of the country near Taliban-controlled areas.

Marjah district of Helmand province—the site of a major offensive by coalition forces last year—is included in the second

round. Security has improved in Marjah, where the police once were so corrupt that residents feared them more than the Taliban. Coalition operations to rout the Taliban in February 2010 yielded slower than expected returns, but a troop buildup later in the year pushed insurgents out of the main center of the district.

Though excited, many governors in the newly listed provinces have complained the transition can't succeed unless they receive more police, soldiers and equipment.

At a meeting last month in Kabul, some governors predicted the transition would go smoothly in their regions while others worried insurgents would move in and overwhelm still nascent Afghan security forces. Several governors made the plea for extra manpower and equipment.

The first seven areas began transition in July. They were four provincial capitals - Herat, Lashkar Gah, Mehtarlam and Mazer-e-Sharif—all of Bamiyan and Panjshir provinces and all of Kabul province, except the restive Surobi district.

All or parts of 18 provinces are on the second slate of transition areas that Karzai approved.

Nimroz, Day Kundi, Samangan, Takhar and Balkh provinces in their entirety are on the list. In addition, the provincial capitals of Ghazni, Wardak, Badghis, Nangarhar, Badakhshan, Ghor and Jawzjan provinces are included. The rest of the sites are separate districts in various provinces.

Afghan officials: Fire from Pakistan led to attack

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Afghan officials claimed Sunday that Afghan and NATO forces were retaliating for gunfire from two Pakistani army bases when they called in airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani soldiers, adding a layer of complexity to an episode that has further strained Pakistan's ties with the United States.

The account challenged Pakistan's claim that the strikes were unprovoked.

The attack Saturday near the Afghan-Pakistani border aroused popular anger in Pakistan and added tension to the U.S.-Pakistani relationship, which has been under pressure since the secret U.S. raid inside Pakistan that killed Osama bin Laden in May.

Pakistan has closed its western border to trucks delivering supplies to coalition troops in Afghanistan, demanded that the U.S. abandon an air base inside Pakistan and said it will review its cooperation with the U.S. and NATO.

A complete breakdown in the relationship between the United States and Pakistan is considered unlikely. Pakistan relies on billions of dollars in American aid, and the U.S. needs Pakistan to push Afghan insurgents to participate in peace talks.

Afghanistan's assertions about the attack muddy the efforts to determine what hap-

pened. The Afghan officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the issue, said it was unclear who fired on Afghan and NATO forces, which were conducting a joint operation before dawn Saturday.

They said the fire came from the direction of the two Pakistani army posts along the border that were later hit in the airstrikes.

NATO has said it is investi-

gating, but it has not questioned the Pakistani claim that 24 soldiers were killed. All airstrikes are approved at a higher command level than the troops on the ground.

Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen offered his deepest condolences and said the coalition was committed to working with Pakistan to "avoid such tragedies in the future."

"We have a joint interest in

the fight against cross-border terrorism and in ensuring that Afghanistan does not once again become a safe-haven for terrorists," Rasmussen said in Brussels.

NATO officials have complained that insurgents fire from across the poorly defined frontier, often from positions close to Pakistani soldiers, who have been accused of tolerating or supporting them.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China's premier vows improved school safety

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao has pledged more support for school safety following the crash of a bus earlier this month that killed 19 children. Wen told a conference in Beijing on Sunday that all types of harm to children must be avoided. He said a special emphasis should be placed on boosting school security, eliminating fire hazards, and improving school bus safety. Wen's comments were posted on the official government website. Earlier this month, a nine-seat private school van packed with 62 children and two adults crashed head-on with a truck in northwest Gansu province. Their teacher and the driver died along with 19 children, who were between 3 and 5 years old. All 43 surviving children were injured.

Hotel explosion kills 3, wounds 27 in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A powerful blast killed at least 3 people and wounded 27 others in a budget hotel packed with wedding guests in the southern Philippines, officials said Monday. The explosion, suspected to have been

caused by a bomb, ignited a fire that gutted the two-story Atilano Pension House in downtown Zamboanga city late Sunday. The blast was so powerful it caused much of the second floor to collapse, blew off the hotel roof and shattered glass panes and windows from nearby buildings, Zamboanga city Mayor Celso Lobregat said. Two of the wounded were in serious condition in a hospital, he said.

Death toll in Indonesian bridge collapse now at 11

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Rescuers say the number of people killed when a bridge collapsed in central Indonesia has climbed to 11, with more than 30 others missing and feared dead. Sunarbowo Sandi, head of the search-and-rescue team, said Monday some of the victims are believed trapped in buses and cars that crashed into the murky Mahakam river below. The 770-yard (700-meter) structure—built to resemble the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco—collapsed over the weekend after a steel support cable snapped while repair work was being done. The 10-year-old bridge linked the towns of Tenggarong and Samarinda in East Kalimantan province.

World

In unprecedented step, Arab League sanctions Syria

BEIRUT (AP)—In an unprecedented move against an Arab nation, the Arab League on Sunday approved economic sanctions on Syria to pressure Damascus to end its deadly suppression of an 8-month-old uprising against President Bashar Assad.

But even as world leaders abandon Assad, the regime has refused to ease a military assault on dissent that already has killed more than 3,500 people. On Sunday, Damascus slammed the sanctions as a betrayal of Arab solidarity and insisted a foreign conspiracy was behind the revolt, all but assuring more bloodshed will follow.

The sanctions are among the clearest signs yet of the isolation Syria is suffering because of the crackdown. Damascus has long boasted of being a powerhouse of Arab nationalism, but Assad has been abandoned by some of his closest allies and now his Arab neighbors. The growing movement against his regime could transform some of the most enduring alliances in the Middle East and beyond.

At a news conference in Cairo, Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad bin Jassim said 19 of the League's 22 member nations approved a series of tough pun-

ishments that include cutting off transactions with the Syrian central bank, halting Arab government funding for projects in Syria and freezing government assets. Those sanctions are to take effect immediately.

Other steps, including halting flights and imposing travel bans on some, as-yet unnamed Syrian

officials, will come later after a committee reviews them.

"The Syrian people are being killed but we don't want this. Every Syrian official should not accept killing even one person," bin Jassim said. "Power is worth nothing while you stand as an enemy to your people."

He added that the League

aims to "to avoid any suffering for the Syrian people."

Iraq and Lebanon—important trading partners for Syria—abstained from the vote, which came after Damascus missed an Arab League deadline to agree to allow hundreds of observers into the country as part of a peace deal Syria agreed to early

this month to end the crisis.

Arab League Secretary General Nabil Elaraby said the bloc will reconsider the sanctions if Syria carries out the Arab-brokered plan, which includes pulling tanks from the streets and ending violence against civilians.

The regime, however, has shown no signs of easing its crackdown, and activist groups said more than 30 people were killed Sunday. The death toll was impossible to confirm. Syria has banned most foreign journalists and prevented independent reporting inside the country.

The Local Coordinating Committees, a coalition of Syrian activist groups, praised the sanctions but called for a mechanism to ensure compliance.

"The sanctions leave open the opportunity for the regime to commit fraud and strip the sanctions of any substance, thereby prolonging the suffering of the Syrian people at the hands of an

oppressive and brutal regime," the group said.

The Arab League move is the latest in a growing wave of international pressure pushing Damascus to end its crackdown. The European Union and the United States already have imposed sanctions, the League has suspended Syria's membership and world leaders increasingly are calling on Assad to go. But as the crisis drags on, the violence appears to be spiraling out of control as attacks by army defectors increase and some protesters take up arms to protect themselves.

Syria has seen the bloodiest crackdown against the Arab Spring's eruption of protests, and has descended into a deadly grind. Though internationally isolated, Assad appears to have a firm grip on power with the loyalty of most of the armed forces, which in the past months have moved from city to city to put down uprisings. In each place, however, protests have resumed.



A Syrian immigrant shows a V-sign decorated as the revolutionary Syrian flag during a rally against the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in front of the Syrian embassy in Sofia, on Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011.

Egypt heads to landmark vote in turmoil, confusion

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptians prepared to vote Monday in the first elections since Hosni Mubarak's ouster, a milestone many hoped would usher in a democratic age after decades of dictatorship. Instead, the polling is already marred by turmoil in the streets and the population is sharply polarized and confused over the nation's direction.

Nine months after the popular uprising that pushed Mubarak out, protesters are back in the streets. This time, they are demanding that military ruler Field Marshal Hussein Tantawi and his council of generals step down immediately, accused of bungling the transition. Nine days of clashes that have left more than 40 dead have heightened fears of violence at polling stations.

More critically, the political crisis has cast doubt on the legitimacy of the vote, which is expected to be dominated by Islamic parties. That could render the parliament that emerges irrelevant.

"We have no idea who we are going to vote for," said Mustafa Attiya Ali, a 50-year-old barber in Cairo. "We don't know any of the candidates, but I and my friends will get together tonight and decide who to vote for."

Egypt's military rulers decided to forge ahead with the elections despite the new wave of unrest, scenes starkly reminiscent of the first uprising. On Sunday night in Cairo's Tahrir Square, the center of the original uprising, a relatively small crowd of a few thousand braved a rare rainstorm to keep the

round-the-clock protests going.

Egypt has not had a fair or clean election in recent memory. The last parliamentary vote held under Mubarak was in November and December a year ago and it was so fraudulent, the ruling party won all but a handful of seats.

Tantawi and other generals have pledged to ensure a clean election and troops and police began deploying on Sunday evening to protect thousands of polling centers. Foreign groups sent missions to witness the vote, but officially the military banned international election observers.

"I have serious concerns about the safety of the ballot boxes staying overnight uncounted at the polling centers," said Hassan Issa, an oil engineer from Alexandria. "They will definitely be rigged," he predicted.

A high turnout will likely benefit the military because the vote is a crucial part of a road map it proposed for a transfer of power to civilian authorities ending with presidential elections before the end of June 2012.

High turnout may also undermine the tens of thousands of anti-military protesters - many of them see the vote as inconsequential. It could also dilute the Islamist vote because the majority of Egyptians, while pious, prefer separation of religion and politics.

"I want an Islamic state in Egypt, but not like Saudi Arabia or Iran," said Mohammed, a 19-year-old student from Cairo's upscale Mohandiseen district who only wanted his first name published.

Morocco's Arab Spring election won by Islamists

RABAT, Morocco (AP)—The victory of an Islamist Party in Morocco's parliamentary elections appears to be one more sign that religious-based parties are benefiting the most from the new freedoms brought by the Arab Spring.

Across the Middle East, parties referencing Islam have made great strides, offering an alternative to corrupt, long serving dictators, who have often ruled with close Western support.

The Justice and Development Party dominated Morocco's elections through a combination of good organization, an outsider status and not being too much of a threat to Morocco's all-powerful king.

By taking 107 seats out of the

395 seats, almost twice as many as the second place finisher, the party ensured that King Mohammed VI must pick the next prime minister from its ranks and to form the next government out of the dozen parties in Morocco's parliament.

It is the first time the PJD—as it is known by its French initials—will be part of the government and its outsider status could be just what Morocco, wracked by pro-democracy protests, needs.

Although it didn't bring down the government, the North African kingdom of 32 million, just across the water from Spain, was still touched by the waves of unrest that swept the Arab world following the revolution

in Tunisia, with tens of thousands marching in the streets calling for greater freedoms and less corruption.

The king responded by modifying the constitution to give the next parliament and prime minister more powers, and held early elections.

But there was still a vigorous movement to boycott the elections. There was only a 45 percent turnout in Friday's polls, and many of those who went to vote turned in blank ballots or crossed out every party listed to show their dissatisfaction with the system.

Election observers from the U.S.-based National Democratic Institute estimated that up to a fifth of the ballots they saw counted had been defaced

in such a way.

In the face of such widespread distrust of politics, historian and political analyst Maati Monjib said a government led by a new political force could be the answer.

"If the PJD forms a coalition in a free and independent way and not with a party of the Makhzen," he said referring to the catch-all phrase for the entrenched establishment around the king, "this will be a big step forward for Morocco."

In Tunisia, Morocco, and on Monday most likely also Egypt, newly enfranchised populations are choosing religious parties as a rebuke to the old systems, which often espoused liberal or left-wing ideologies.

WORLD BRIEFS

Palestinian PM: Israeli sanctions starting to bite

RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP)—Israeli economic sanctions against the Palestinians, in retaliation for their bid to win world recognition of a state of Palestine, have started to bite: officials said Sunday that they won't be able to pay the next round of public sector salaries that support nearly one-third of Palestinians, and that the damage to a fragile economy is devastating. Critics say Israel isn't entitled to impound funds it collects on behalf of the Pal-

estinians, some \$100 million monthly of customs charges and other taxes which form nearly two-thirds of the local revenue of the West Bank-based government of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

UN conference to deal with carbon reductions

DURBAN, South Africa (AP)—The U.N.'s top climate official said she expects governments to make a long-delayed decision on whether industrial countries should make further commitments to reduce emissions of climate-changing

greenhouse gases. Amid fresh warnings of climate-related disasters in the future, delegates from about 190 countries were gathering in Durban for a two-week conference beginning Monday. They hope to break deadlocks on how to curb emissions of carbon dioxide and other pollutants.

Tunisair suspends Tripoli flights due to security

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP)—Tunisian airlines have suspended flights to Libya's capital Tripoli after armed men swarmed

the runway and stopped a plane from taking off, a company official said Sunday. Flights were suspended until "an improvement in the security conditions," said Soufafa Mokaddem, a spokeswoman for Tunisair. Those to Libya's second city, Benghazi in the east, will continue, she said. On Saturday afternoon, a TunisAir flight leaving from Tripoli's military airport of Maitiga carrying 47 wounded Libyans to be treated in Tunisia was stopped by 300 armed men, Tunisia's state news agency, TAP, said.

Focus

PROFESSOR WAS RIGHT:

Mastodon weapon older than thought, scientists say

BY CRAIG WELCH
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE—It's not unusual for an archaeologist to get stuck in the past, but Carl Gustafson may be the only one consumed by events on the Olympic Peninsula in 1977.

That summer, while sifting through earth in Sequim, Wash., the young Gustafson uncovered something extraordinary—a mastodon bone with a shaft jammed in it. This appeared to be a weapon that had been thrust into the beast's ribs, a sign that humans had been around and hunting far earlier than anyone suspected.

Unfortunately for Gustafson, few scientists agreed. He was challenging orthodoxy with less-than-perfect evidence.

For almost 35 years, his find was ridiculed or ignored, the site dismissed as curious but not significant.

But last month, a team that re-examined his discovery using new technology concluded in the prestigious journal *Science* that Gustafson had been right all along.

The pierced bone was clear evidence that human beings were hunting large mammals in North America 13,800 years ago—about 800 years before the so-called Clovis people were thought to have migrated across the Bering land bridge from Asia.

The announcement came as sweet vindication for the now-retired Washington State University professor.

"I was pretty bitter about the whole thing for a long time," Gustafson, 75, recalled. "I don't like saying it. I never really admitted it except to my wife. It was so frustrating. But I'm very humbled and happy it turned out this way."

His discovery has helped redefine our understanding of the history of the Americas.

"I think that's been the most gratifying aspect of this entire project—being able to go to Carl's house and show him all the data and the dates," said Mike Waters, director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M University, who led the recent re-examination. "You could just see the excitement on his face. His wife told me later that it was one of his best days ever."

Of course, another day stands out, too.

It started with a bowling alley owner in Sequim who just wanted to put in a pond.

Manny Manis was turning

over dirt with a backhoe in August 1977 when he unearthed what looked like the tusk of a mammoth. An excited Manis and his wife, Clare, started calling around to experts.

In Pullman a week later, Gustafson heard about the find. He grabbed an 8-foot-long roll of cotton batting and a 2.5-ton truck and drove to the Olympic Peninsula. He expected to be done in a few days. (He would spend every summer there until 1985.)

There, in the earth, lay the bones of a mastodon, an elephant-like creature that went extinct about 11,000 years ago. Within hours Gustafson found the rib bone with an odd fragment in it.

"I saw the object stuck into the bone," Gustafson recalled. "I could see some of the bone was crushed in, as if you'd penetrated the object with a spear or an ice pick. It looked like a human-modified bone stuck into this rib."

Gustafson was thrilled but knew he had to slow down. He and colleagues collected seeds and other organic material amid the bones and had them sent to be radiocarbon dated. The rib bone was sent to be X-rayed.

The dating suggested the bone was 14,000 years old, but the margin for error was high. The X-rays showed what looked to be a projectile point, but it was blurry.

Still, Gustafson believed he'd stumbled upon a game changer.

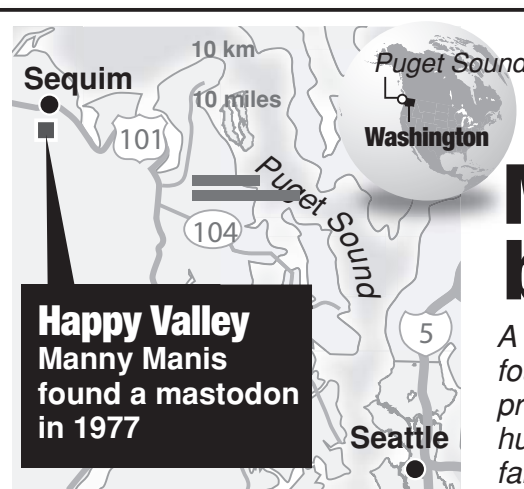
Since the 1930s, many scientists had come to believe it was unlikely that humans in the Americas predated Clovis people. For starters, there was a lot of evidence of Clovis people, but nothing credible had surfaced to suggest humans were here earlier.

"There was also an entrenched point of view within the academic community commonly known as the Clovis-first position," Fisher said. Many scientists held challenges to that position to far greater scrutiny, he said.

Gustafson's find was called inconclusive, or simply reinterpreted. The "weapon" was probably just a piece of tusk left behind by another mastodon after a fight, some said. It could have been a broken antler from a charging elk, others argued.

"It was just so frustrating," Gustafson said. "I had all this stuff, all this information."

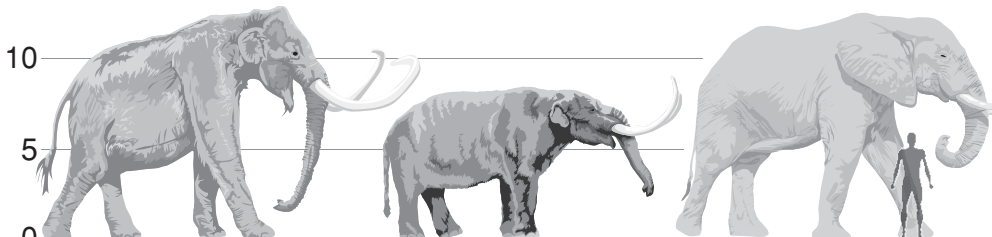
Gustafson and his son returned again and again to the site, amassing more evidence. Sometimes they lived for months on credit cards. They found other bones that appeared



Mastodon bones and man

A re-examination of a mastodon bone found in Sequim, Washington in 1977 provides evidence that humans were hunting mammals in North America far earlier than once thought.

15 ft. (4.6 m)



Columbian mammoth
Mammuthus columbi
Height 13 ft. (4 m)

Mastodon
Mammuthus americanum
Height 8-10 ft.
(2.4-3 m)

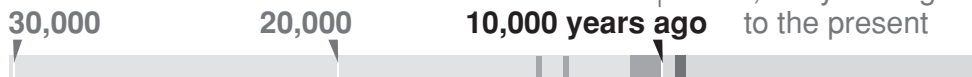
African elephant
Loxodonta africana
Height 10-13 ft.
(3-4 m)

Pleistocene Epoch

1.8 million to 10,000 years ago

Holocene Epoch

10,000 years ago to the present



Date of projectile in mastodon in Sequim
13,800 years ago

Kennewick Man
9,300 to 9,600 years ago

Arrival of Clovis people
13,000 years ago

Mammoths and mastodons die out
about 10,000 to 11,000 years ago

Source: Woodland Park Zoo, www.burkemuseum.org, www.ucmp.berkeley.edu, The San Diego Natural History Museum
Graphic: Mark Nowlin, The Seattle Times

© 2011 MCT

sharpened, but it was never entirely clear.

Quentin Mackie, at the University of Victoria's Department of Anthropology, agreed the Clovis-first model most likely subjected Gustafson's site to unfair critiques. But over the years Gustafson, too, didn't share his results in a great number of high-profile journals.

He also lacked important modern tools.

By the late 1990s, Gustafson had retired and the Clovis-first model was under increasing scrutiny. Evidence of pre-Clovis people had been found in South America, and other sites had surfaced, or would soon, in Wisconsin, Texas and Oregon—some more than 15,000 years old. The tide was changing.

One of the scientists helping write that new history was Waters at Texas A&M. One day he called Gustafson and asked if he could subject his materials to new tests. Gustafson happily agreed.

"The Manis site had always been intriguing to me," Waters said.

So he and his team put the rib bone through an industrial-strength CT scan. They used DNA sequencing and protein analysis. They sent samples to other labs to rule out other possibilities.

Using these and other tests not available to Gustafson in the 1970s and '80s, they narrowed the age of the bone down to 13,800 years.

The CT scan showed the embedded shaft in the rib clearly had been whittled to a point. And other tests revealed it, too, was made of mastodon bone—not tusk, not elk antler.

"When I saw that this was sharpened to a sharp tip, I thought my gosh, this is an actual projectile point," Waters said.

Waters and his colleagues showed Gustafson was right.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Rosita Camacho Terlaje Pangelinan

July 14, 1968 – November 18, 2011

This is to inform the relatives and friends of
Rosita Camacho Terlaje Pangelinan,
daughter of the late †Jose and †Regina Camacho Terlaje and
wife of Mark Dave Sablan Pangelinan was called to her eternal rest on
November 18, 2011 at the University of Washington
Medical Center, Seattle, Washington.

Daily Mass is being offered at San Jose Church,
Oleai at the following dates and times:

Monday, November 28, 2011 6:00AM
Tuesday, November 29, 2011 6:00AM
Wednesday, November 30, 2011 6:00PM
Thursday, December 01, 2011 6:00AM
Friday, December 02, 2011 6:00AM
Saturday, December 03, 2011 6:00PM

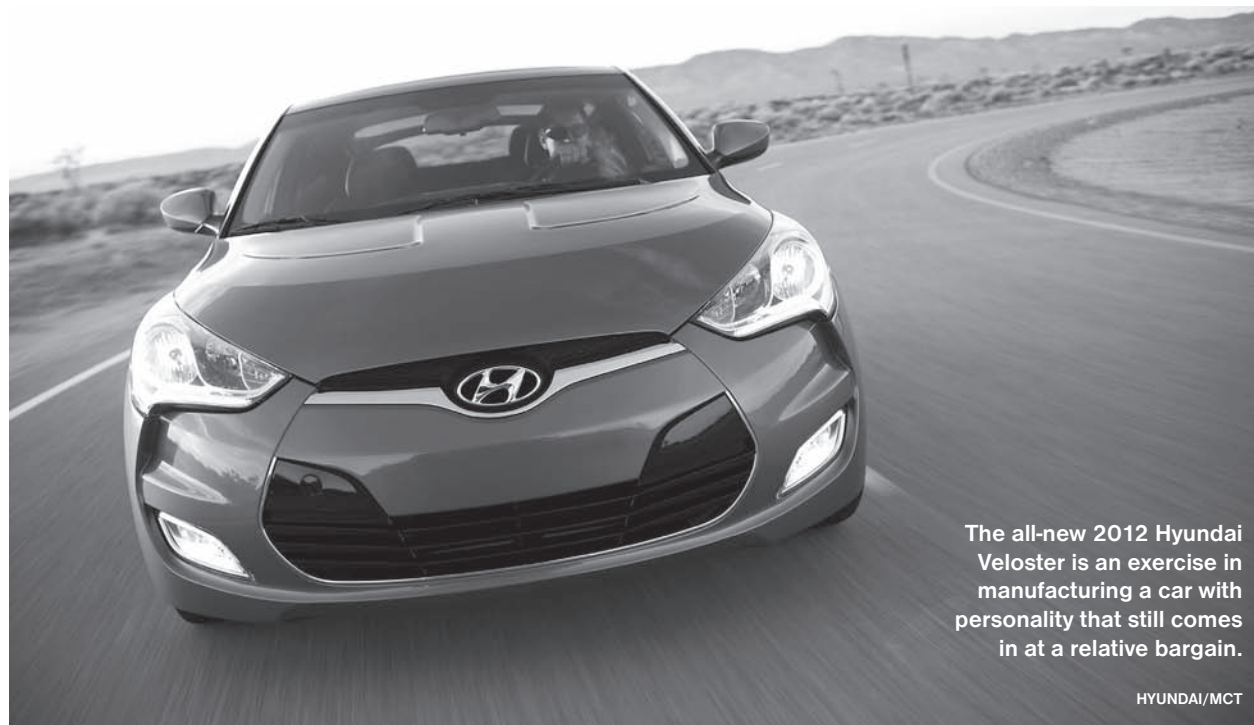
Sunday, December 04, 2011 7:30AM & 9:00AM
Monday, December 05, 2011 6:00AM
Tuesday, December 06, 2011 6:00AM
Wednesday, December 07, 2011 6:00PM
Thursday, December 08, 2011 6:00AM

Mass of Christian Burial will be announced at a later date.

*I tinayuyut miyu yan I finaton miyu en sen agradezi.
Un dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase*

Ginen as Mark, famagu'on-ña yan i familia

Overdrive



The all-new 2012 Hyundai Veloster is an exercise in manufacturing a car with personality that still comes in at a relative bargain.

HYUNDAI/MCT

Hyundai Veloster has something extra: a third door

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

The all-new 2012 Hyundai Veloster is an exercise in manufacturing a car with personality that still comes in at a relative bargain, with good fuel economy and presumably good reliability.

Is it a successful exercise? Yes, mostly. But the little car's personality may grate on you just slightly.

The Veloster is a three-door coupe—the driver's side has one conventional door, and the passenger side has a

regular door for the front seat, and a smaller door for the rear seat. This is not unique. The current Mini Clubman has three doors, and the Saturn SC debuted with three doors in 1998. It was a success, as Saturn saw SC sales jump 30 percent when the third door was added, but there was a limitation—You could only open that third door when the front door was open. Not the case on the Veloster.

That said, you still don't want to sit in the Veloster's rear seat. That small door requires some gymnastics for

actual adults to clamber into the back and, once there, anyone over five feet tall will find some serious issues with headroom. If you lean back a little, the headroom isn't bad, because your head is directly under the rear glass. But as soon as the driver taps the brakes, expect to tap your forehead on the inside of the roof. This is clearly a kid-size back seat, unless the owner plans to issue bicycle helmets to rear passengers.

The Veloster's wheelbase—the distance from the center of the front wheels to the center of the rear wheels—is lon-

ger than the Hyundai Accent, shorter than the Elantra, but the Veloster's overall length is about six inches shorter than the entry-level Accent.

The Accent and Veloster have the same engine and standard transmission—a 138-horsepower, 1.6-liter four cylinder, with a six-speed manual. Optional on the Veloster is an advanced six-speed automatic with dual internal clutches, but it costs an extra \$1,250. For the difference, I'd take the manual, which is one of the best on any front-wheel-drive car, and mileage is better at an EPA-rated 28 mpg city, 40 mpg highway. With the Accent and the Elantra—which has a slightly larger engine—I was able to get close to the EPA-rated 40 mpg on the highway, but I couldn't in the Veloster.

Even so, the Veloster is fun to drive, but so are the Accent and Elantra. The Veloster comes standard with big P215/45-HR17-inch tires and alloy wheels, and a comparatively stiff suspension that aids handling at a slight expense in ride quality. The electric power steering feels a bit light, but it isn't objectionable.

Inside, the Veloster has plenty of standard equipment, including power windows, air conditioning, a decent 196-watt sound system, cruise control and a tilt and telescoping steering wheel.

There's a 7-inch touch screen that controls multiple functions, and—in a nod to the younger buyer the Veloster is aimed at—standard Bluetooth, Gracenote voice recognition, Pandora-ready Internet radio and various electronic input jacks and ports.

There are only two main options aside from the automatic transmission: a Style package that has bigger tires and wheels, a massive sunroof and a better stereo; and a Tech package, which adds a navigation system with rear camera and push-button start. With all the options, the Veloster price tops \$23,000.

At the just-over-\$18,000 price of our test car, the Veloster seems like a good buy if you are willing to trade some practicality for style. If you aren't, the new Accent is as much fun to drive, has four real doors and a useable back seat, and costs about \$2,000 less—which isn't just a good buy, it's a steal.

NUTS & BOLTS

2012 Hyundai Veloster

- **Base price:** \$17,300
- **Price as tested:** \$18,060
- **EPA rating:** 28 mpg city, 40 mpg highway
- **Engine:** 1.6-liter, 138-horsepower four-cylinder
- **Transmission:** Six-speed automatic
- **Length:** 166.1 inches
- **Wheelbase:** 104.3 inches
- **Parting shot:** Are they laughing with the Veloster, or at it?



UNDER THE HOOD

How coolant gets into intake manifold

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I was just informed the coolant leak in my GMC Yukon is due to a leaking intake manifold gasket. Apparently this is a common problem. I was shocked at the price quoted for the repair and am not sure I understand why there would be coolant in my intake manifold in the first place. Any insight into this issue?—Carl Shelton

ANSWER: Leaking intake manifold gaskets are a fairly common problem on several GM V-6 and V-8 engine types built during the past two decades. In a V-type engine, coolant, incoming air and fuel, and exhaust are individually directed to or between the cylinder heads, and leakage of any of these can occur either internally or externally.

A failed intake manifold or cylinder head gasket can leak air into the engine, which causes rough running, or crankcase vapors into the intake, which causes excessive oil consumption and fouled spark plugs. This kind of failure can also leak coolant externally—you would notice coolant loss and a sweet odor—or internally, creating milky oil that leads to engine failure. It could also

leak exhaust, externally or elsewhere. Coolant leaking into the crankcase, or the internal engine cavity, is by far the worst of the bunch, as the diluted oil can't provide proper lubrication to vital engine parts.

There are a variety of causes and theories of failure. Engines that employ plastic intake manifolds are subject to manifold cracking and gasket sealing problems. Aluminum intake manifolds bolted to cast-iron cylinder heads have issues as well, as the two metals expand and contract at differing rates. Your particular engine uses fewer bolts securing the intake to head junction than in the past, possibly exacerbating sealing issues. Some theorize controversial orange Dex-Cool coolant is the culprit, as the composition rubber intake gasket deteriorates where it is exposed to the coolant. GM released an improved intake manifold gasket design, and aftermarket/OEM gasket manufacturers such as Fel-Pro have improved design gaskets, but repeat problems can still occur.

You didn't mention where the coolant was leaking to. If it's internal, with milky engine oil, the repair needs to be made immediately. An external coolant leak might be Band-Aided for a while with use of a leak stop product

such as AlumAseal or Bar's Leaks, but keep a close eye on engine oil in case the leakage migrates.

Renewing the intake gaskets requires removal of the intake manifold, distributor and air conditioning compressor, and it's a fairly big job. I'd also insist on employing a highly experienced technician that uses the latest gasket design available and uses meticulous, correct practices for cleaning sealing surfaces, cleaning and sealing bolts and threads, and fastener torque/sequence. On the V-6 engines, it's recommended that the fastening bolts also be replaced.

A final thought: Regardless of the coolant type used or brand of vehicle, it's a really good idea to flush and renew engine coolant every three or four years, shortcutting the maintenance schedule, which is often not indicated, or antifreeze lifespan claim. Old coolant becomes acidic and its corrosion inhibitors degrade, leading to many problems that are expensive and easily avoidable.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Small advancements add up to improve mileage

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: How have manufacturers been able to build vehicles that have so much horsepower, but get gas mileage that is far better than it used to be? Where have they made the advancements?—Carl, Walter and Louis

ANSWER: The improvements have been incremental—a little here, a little there. Two factors are at the top: Electronic fuel injection that is more precise than early fuel injection or carburetion and a more efficient combustion process using electronic ignition. Those two things add up to a substantial improvement. Add in other factors, such as much improved transmissions with more gears than before, better oil that reduces internal drag, lighter components, tires that roll more easily and better aerodynamics, and you have just what you describe.

For example: The 1991 Ford Mustang V-8 was 225 horsepower, and was rated, using current criteria, at 23 mpg on the highway. The cur-

rent Mustang with the 3.7-liter V-6 is rated at 31 mpg highway, but has 305 horsepower, 80 more than the V-8 from 20 years ago.

■■■■■
Q: My husband is restoring an older car and I would like to try and help him find a source for replacement parts. Can you advise?—Shel

A: You didn't mention what kind of car it is, but regardless, the best place to start is to buy a copy of Hemmings Motor News, a thick publication that has some feature stories, but is mostly classified ads for cars and parts—everything from Dodges to Duesenbergs. Hemmings (Hemmings.com) is available at most book stores, and even in the magazine section of most of the Publix supermarkets. For all but the rarest brands, there are national, and often local, car clubs, and those members are a great source for information.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

Life & Style

Jason Segel finally gets to act with the Muppets

By RICK BENTLEY
THE FRESNO BEE (FRESNO, CALIF.)

LOS ANGELES—Jason Segel, star of the CBS comedy “How I Met Your Mother,” grew up a devoted fan of the Muppets. All he wanted was to one day have a cameo role in one of their movies.

Unfortunately for Segel, his first major acting role, in the 1999 series “Freaks and Geeks,” came the same year the Muppets made their last feature film, “Muppets from Space.” Since then the Muppets have done only a few TV and Internet projects.

Segel finally got tired of waiting and co-wrote, with Nick Stoller, “The Muppets,” a story of getting the old gang together to save The Muppet Theater. He not only helped pen the story, but he stars alongside Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy.

“I never thought that I would be working in this capacity with the Muppets. It’s thrilling and unbelievable and does feel like a fantasy sometimes,” Segel says.

Segel’s motives for helping get the Muppets back on the big screen go beyond wanting to work with the group. He’s convinced they’re needed in this very cynical era of comedy. The Muppets have shown for 40 years that it’s possible to get laughs without having to do it at anyone else’s expense. That’s something Segel wants youngsters to understand.

As for adults, he thinks the Muppets reflect who we wanted to be as kids.

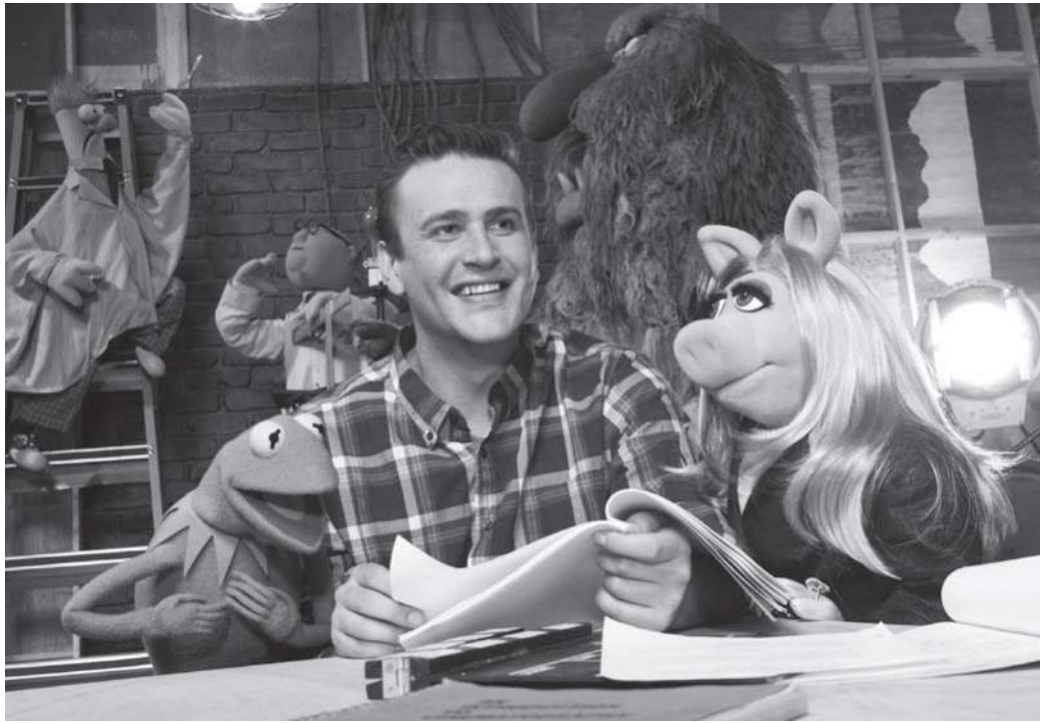
“They remind us of our best versions of ourselves. The world kind of beats something out of you that anything is possible, this sort of wide-eyed wonder, and you come to the reality of what the world is like. But the Muppets have never given in to that. They believe they can accomplish anything and they just go forward with their eyes open wide and a smile on their face. It sort of reminds us of the best in us,” Segel says.

“The Muppets” was the first film idea Segel pitched after his successful “Forgetting Sarah Marshall.” Once he got the OK, he and Stoller had no shortage of ideas. For example, Animal should be in an anger management and Fozzie should be performing in Reno with a knock-off version of The Muppets.

They wanted to have the Swedish Chef working as a judge of “Top Chef,” but didn’t get to film the scene. The theme of the movie is that the Muppets are better together than apart, so Segel wanted them together as quickly as possible.

He also knew he wanted to use the song “Rainbow Connection,” and he decided to make it a duet by Kermit and Miss Piggy after listening to a CD in his car of people covering Muppet songs.

The rest of the film is filled with original music, other Mup-



ANDREW MACPHERSON/MUPPETS STUDIO/MCT

Kermit the Frog, Jason Segel and Miss Piggy perform a scene in “The Muppets.”

Kermit the Frog was green before green was cool

By RICK BENTLEY
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

LOS ANGELES—Kermit the Frog is cooling his cloth-and-cotton heels in the Beverly Hilton hotel room.

“Miss Piggy apologizes. She’s delayed. Actually she’s standing right outside the door. She wants to make a special entrance,” Kermit says.

As if on cue, the door flies open and Miss Piggy enters like a beauty queen making her first trip down the runway. She stops and asks how long we’ve been waiting. Upon hearing it’s been only 30 seconds, Piggy turns and leaves.

The move doesn’t surprise Kermit. This has been the modus operandi of the swine diva for almost the entire 36 years that they have worked together. They’ve remained a Hollywood power couple by not letting a little thing like ego get in their way. They know it’s all about the people who work closely behind them.

The pair are promoting their return to the big screen, “The Muppets.” It’s the story of getting The Muppets back together after more than a dozen years. Kermit says the film is loosely based on the facts.

“It’s not exactly a documentary. It’s not reality. It was just a story. We’ve done lots of stuff. We did some other TV shows, some TV movies, work for the Internet. So we’ve been together but it made for a better story if we have been separated.”

Kermit hasn’t changed over

the years. He’s still the same frog who doesn’t ask for script approval. Even though the script said “Kermit the Frog,” he knows they could have cast someone like Justin Bieber to play the part.

The door to the hotel room flies open again and Miss Piggy enters.

“OK, OK, OK. I wanted to be fashionably late but listening to you from outside, I could tell you needed some help,” Miss Piggy says. “There was no audition process for moi. Are you kidding?”

“OK. Let’s talk about moi.” Miss Piggy once ruled magazine covers and worked with everyone from Bob Hope to Steve Martin. That she’s been out of the spotlight in recent years has not tamed her diva nature. She boasts that she has 738 costume changes in the movie, including five costume changes in one shot.

That may explain why Kermit, as always, remains his usual near-naked self.

Miss Piggy has no idea who Jason Segel is, even after Kermit points out as the writer of the movie his name is on the script. Miss Piggy didn’t read the script. That proved no problem, except for the scene where she has to play the editor of a French fashion magazine.

“I had to be this boss and to be a boss you have to be bossy and that’s not like me at all in real life,” Miss Piggy says.

Kermit responds with a very sarcastic, “Nooooo! No typecasting there.”

thing Segel embraced.

“I just don’t like moving around. I’m not making a joke. I even like to sit in chase scenes,” Segel says.

He used a lot of that time sitting around to think about how great it was to fulfill a life-long dream. His only regret is that

Early reports that Kermit would direct the movie proved false. The job went to James Bobin. Kermit doesn’t want the responsibility of directing because, although he’s a relatively sentient being, he’s not convinced he has the brain power to direct.

He was smart enough to add “Rainbow Connection” to the movie’s soundtrack. He’s never tired of singing the tune.

“I think it was kind of nice to sing it again. The last time I did it in the movie was 32 years ago. I hope that ‘Rainbow Connection’ has some relevance. I think it is a pretty song,” Kermit says.

Miss Piggy adds, “Especially with my voice added to it.”

The Muppets have been away from the big screen since 1999, but they continue to hear from adults who grew up with their mid-70s TV series, “The Muppet Show,” who now have children of their own. Kermit’s happy those adults will get to introduce the Muppets to their children.

Miss Piggy’s also happy to work in films again.

“I am so excited, but I am not nearly excited as the rest of the world is obviously that moi is gracing the silver screen once again. This is really a love story to moi’s existing fans and all my new ones,” she says.

Kermit says, “I thought you were going to say to my existing fans and ones that don’t exist.”

Miss Piggy adds, “And those too.”

the real stars—the puppeteers—don’t get the recognition they deserve for being able to act, dance, sing and be funny while working in a confined space.

As for the rest of the film, Segel says, “We did what we set out to do for the lovers, the dreamers and you.”

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The Muppets

Friday & Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		4:20	7:20	

Jason Segel, Amy Adams
Children's/family, Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

When an evil oil man discovers black gold beneath Muppet Theater, Kermit recruits a Muppet super-fan and his two best friends to help gather up the gang for a telethon that will save the venue from being razed and replaced with a giant oil pump. Tex Richman (Chris Cooper) never met an oil field he couldn't suck dry. So when Tex discovers a bountiful reservoir right underneath Muppet Theater, he begins drawing up plans to claim the land and start drilling. Little does Tex realize that devoted Muppets fan Walter is currently in Los Angeles with his best friends Gary (Jason Segel) and Mary (Amy Adams), and that he's not about to let one man's greed spoil a good thing for everyone. With Kermit by their side, Walter, Gary, and Mary hatch a plan to put on a big telethon that will help them raise the ten million dollars needed to keep Muppet Theater standing.



Arthur Christmas

Friday & Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie
Comedy • Rated PG



Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 1

Friday & Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Happy Feet Two

Friday & Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Elijah Wood, Robin Williams
Children's/family • Rated PG



Immortals

Friday & Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, Freida Pinto
Epic • Rated R



Jack and Jill

Friday & Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes
Comedy • Rated PG



Tower Heist

Friday & Saturday				9:35
Sunday			7:05	
Monday thru Thursday			7:05	

Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy
Crime, Comedy • Rated PG 13



Puss in Boots

Friday & Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	

Anronio Banderas, Salma Hayek
Children's/family • Rated PG

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'Twilight' keeps shining with \$42M second weekend

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The latest "Twilight" movie has plenty of daylight left with a second-straight win at the weekend box office.

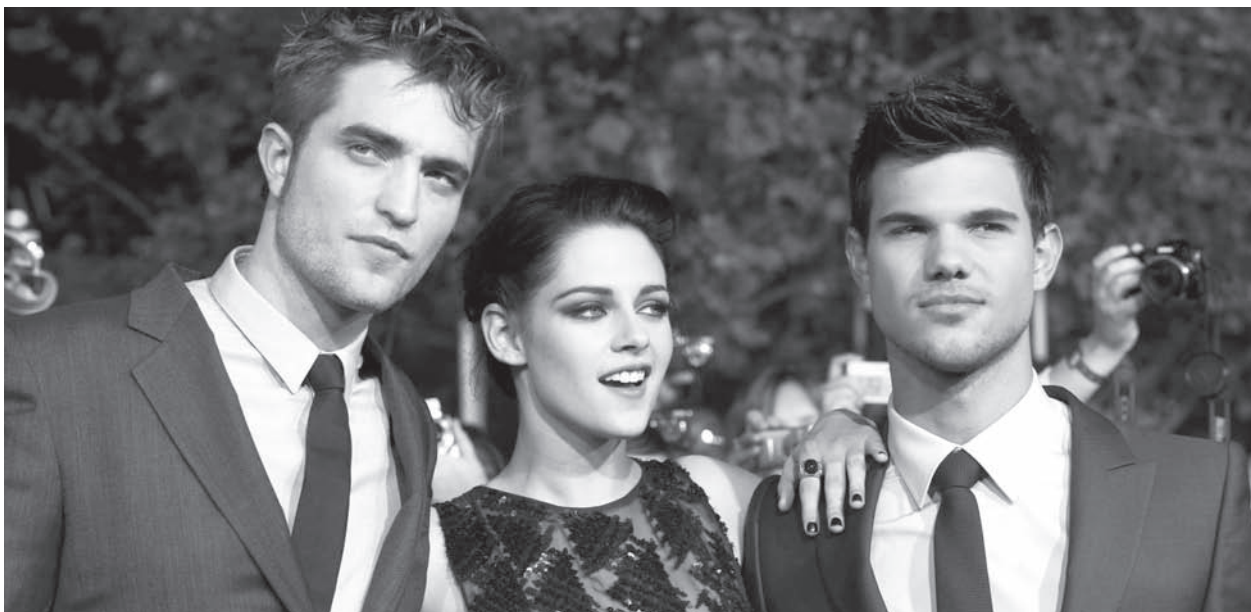
"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1" took in \$42 million domestically over the three-day weekend and \$62.3 million in the five-day Thanksgiving boom time from Wednesday to Sunday. That raised its domestic total to \$221.3 million, while the Summit Entertainment release added \$71.5 million overseas to lift the international total to \$268 million and the worldwide take to \$489.3 million.

Debuting at No. 2 was Disney's family flick "The Muppets," with \$29.5 million for the three-day weekend and \$42 million over the five-day holiday haul.

Three other family films rounded out the top-five: the Warner Bros. sequel "Happy Feet Two" at No. 3 with a three-day total of \$13.4 million and \$18.4 million for five days; Sony's animated comedy "Arthur Christmas" at No. 4 with \$12.7 million for three days and \$17 million for five days; and Paramount's epic adventure "Hugo" at No. 5 with \$11.4 million for three days and \$15.4 million for five days.

Between "Breaking Dawn" and the blitz of family films, analysts thought Hollywood had a shot at record revenue over Thanksgiving, one of the year's busiest weekends at movie theaters. But viewers did not come in anywhere close to record numbers.

"I was pretty surprised by this. I just thought this was the perfect combination of films in the marketplace," said Paul Dergarabedian, analyst for box-



Robert Pattinson, left, Kristen Stewart, center, and Taylor Lautner arrive at the world premiere of "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1" on Monday, Nov. 14, 2011, in Los Angeles.

1. **"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1,"** \$42 million (\$71.5 million international).
2. **"The Muppets,"** \$29.5 million (\$1.6 million international).
3. **"Happy Feet Two,"** \$13.4 million (\$10 million international).
4. **"Arthur Christmas,"** \$12.7 million (\$11.9 million international).
5. **"Hugo,"** \$11.4 million.
6. **"Jack and Jill,"** \$10.3 million.
7. **"Immortals,"** \$8.8 million (\$8 million international).
8. **"Puss in Boots,"** \$7.5 million (\$9 million international).
9. **"Tower Heist,"** \$7.3 million (\$7.3 million international).
10. **"The Descendants,"** \$7.2 million.

office tracker Hollywood.com. "Maybe there was just too much out there."

Domestic revenue totaled \$234 million from Wednesday to Sunday, well below the \$273 million record set two years ago, when "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" led the Thanksgiving weekend, according to Hollywood.com. Receipts also fell short of last Thanksgiving's \$264 million haul, when "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" finished on top.

Disney reported that "The Muppets" drew a good mix of families and couples without children who fondly remember Kermit, Miss Piggy and the rest of the gang on "The Muppet Show." The film stars Jason Segel and Amy Adams as fans helping to reunite the Muppets for a telephone to save their decaying studio.

"Breaking Dawn" was holding close

to the pattern set by "New Moon" two years ago, though domestic revenues were off slightly. Factoring in higher ticket prices since "New Moon," the audience shrank even further for "Breaking Dawn."

"I think the audience has changed a bit. Everybody's grown a little older, and I guess we lose a few of our patrons to age," said Richie Fay, head of distribution for Summit.

With no big new releases coming next weekend, though, "Breaking Dawn" has a shot at making up some ground, Fay said.

"Happy Feet Two" has failed to live up to its Academy Award-winning predecessor, a blockbuster that took in nearly \$200 million domestically. The sequel about dancing penguins has managed just \$43.8 million since open-

ing Nov. 18, a 10-day total that barely matches the opening-weekend gross of the 2006 original.

"Arthur Christmas," from the British animation unit Aardman that made "Chicken Run" and the "Wallace and Gromit" films, has long-haul potential because of its good reviews and holiday story line. The voice cast includes James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie and Jim Broadbent in a Christmas Eve romp about a child's present that falls through the cracks in Santa Claus' high-tech delivery operation.

"To have the one picture that really is kind of carrying the torch as a Christmas picture really bodes well for the future," said Rory Bruer, head of distribution for Sony.

Distributor Paramount has similar long-term hopes for Martin Scorsese's "Hugo," which also has great reviews. Based on a children's book, "Hugo" follows the adventures of an orphan boy who tends the clocks in a Paris train station and becomes caught up in unraveling a mystery that connects a surly old man (Ben Kingsley) and a mechanical automaton the youth is trying to repair.

In narrower release, the Marilyn Monroe drama "My Week with Marilyn" opened solidly with a \$1.8 million weekend and \$2.1 million since opening Wednesday. The Weinstein Co. release stars Michelle Williams as Monroe during her tumultuous time filming Laurence Olivier's "The Prince and the Showgirl."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

Book aims to help kids cope with loss of a pet

By DAVID SHARP
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—First there was Marley, the rambunctious Labrador retriever whose death brought readers to tears in John Grogan's "Marley and Me." Now there's Sammy, a mixed-breed hound who's the subject of another tear-jerker, a children's book, "Sammy in the Sky."

When her beloved hound dog died, Pulitzer Prize-Winning journalist Barbara Walsh watched her young daughters tearfully struggle with their loss and with tough questions. Walsh quickly realized there was a story to be told, one that she hopes will help other families deal with the loss of a pet.

But it wasn't easy getting the book published, even after Walsh enlisted celebrated American artist Jamie Wyeth to fill the pages with illustrations in watercolor, acrylic and pencil.

Book agents and publishers were squeamish about the subject matter, yet Walsh and Wyeth didn't want to sugarcoat the pain and sorrow that unfolds in "Sammy in the Sky."

"Agents didn't want to go near this book. They said, 'It's too sad, it's too real,'" Walsh recalled.

"That's my point. There's nothing else like this out there."

Sammy, a mixed-breed hound, became the family's first pet, purchased from a dog pound for \$30 by Walsh's husband, Eric Conrad, while they were living in Florida. Sammy became a

cherished family member, earning Eric's oft-repeated moniker, "the best hound dog in the world."

The hound showed love and patience. He licked Emma's cheeks when Barbara and Eric brought her home from the hospital. He slept next to her crib.

"She'd play doctor and wrap him in bandages and put bonnets on his head. He would just sit there. She used to sleep on him. He was her pillow," Walsh said. "He was this amazing, gentle hound who looked after her. And she considered him to be her best friend."

As pet owners know, all good things must come to an end. The family, by now living in Cape Elizabeth, Maine, discovered a lump on Sammy, and he was diagnosed with cancer at age 12. The girls were told to enjoy their time with him, because it was drawing short. On the night he died at home, Emma echoed her father's words: "You're the best hound dog in the whole wide world."

Emma was 5, and Nora was 3.

After the tears dried, Emma kept asking her parents why did Sammy have to leave, and where did his spirit go. She would run inside after school and holler out Sammy's name, forgetting the hound was gone. Nora sometimes got angry, shaking her fist at the sky and ordering Sammy to come back down to earth. She wondered aloud if there were a ladder long enough to reach the sky, so she could go see him.

Walsh began taking notes of the heartbreaking emotions.

Wyeth said he liked Walsh's story because it was real. "It's not cute. It's not sweet. It'd kind of edgy," said Wyeth, whose works are on display at the National Gallery of Art, John F. Kennedy Library and the Museum of Modern Art, as well as the Farnsworth Museum in Rockland and Brandywine River Museum in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania.

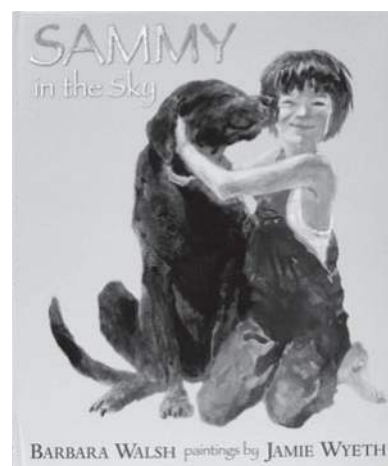
Like Walsh, Wyeth is a dog lover.

The artist—son and grandson of renowned painters Andrew Wyeth and N.C. Wyeth—has been surrounded by dogs and farm animals since he was a boy; "Portrait of a Pig" is among his best-known works. He currently has three dogs—Wiley, Iggy and Voler—who spend the summer with him on the coast of Maine.

"Dogs are more important to me than people, actually," Wyeth said. "The death of a dog wrecks me more than the death of a person, which is probably not a very nice thing to say. I just think of them as total equals, if not superiors."

Wyeth, who is not an illustrator as his grandfather was, returns most of the 10 or 15 manuscripts he receives each year from hopeful authors. But he said Walsh's story touched him, so he agreed to bring the tail-wagging, tongue-flapping Sammy to life in his paintings.

As they collaborated, there were still battles to fight, even after children's publisher Candlewick Press of Somerville, Massachusetts, agreed to pub-



This Nov. 3, 2011 photo shows a copy of the new children's book, "Sammy in the Sky," in Portland, Maine. The story was written by Barbara Walsh and illustrated by Jamie Wyeth.

lish the book. Wyeth was chagrined when the art director suggested the girl looked too sad in one of his paintings and that it might be a good idea to lighten the sky, and the mood, in another. Wyeth resisted the changes.

"It's the death of a dog. I mean, kids aren't stupid," said Wyeth. "We live in a day and age where everyone wants to dumb things down."

Opening a door to the difficult subject matter in "Sammy in the Sky" was a book by an old friend, John Grogan, whose best-selling "Marley and Me," featuring the Grogan family's lovable-but-destructive Labrador retriever Marley, had readers reaching for tissues at the end.

Wyeth and Walsh will sign books on Dec. 11 at the Brandywine River Mu-

seum in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, home of the Wyeth clan.

"Sammy in the Sky" is not expected to outsell Marley, but it's doing well for a children's book. The first printing of 10,000 sold out in a couple of weeks; the book is now on its third printing.

Librarians and veterinarians have told Walsh the book fills a niche. She hopes it helps parents, teachers and children talk about life and death, joy and grief—and helps families to find a way to celebrate a pet's life, like Walsh's family did.

Indeed, books that aim to help youngsters get through the loss of a pet are few and far between, said John C. New Jr., professor of public health and outreach in the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine. There are similar books, but many are self-published, he said.

"Yes, there are books aimed at children, but there aren't a lot of them. And they're not the type of book normally carried in a bookstore," he said.

As for Walsh, her family has moved forward after Sammy's death six years ago.

The family has a new dog, a Tennessee coon hound named Jack. The rescue dog nearly got voted off the island for barking incessantly and scaring houseguests. But he settled into life in Maine as Walsh completed her latest book, "August Gale: A Father and Daughter's Journey into the Storm."

"Now he's my best friend. He sits with me. He dances with me and he runs with me. He doesn't talk back to me and he knows when I'm crazy. But he's my friend," she said.

Early Walt Disney drawing up for auction in US

By **MARTIN GRIFFITH**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

RENO, Nevada (AP)—An original, autographed drawing by Walt Disney, believed to have been made about 1920 before he hit it big in the entertainment world, will go up for auction in Reno this week.

The whimsical drawing of a cigar-chomping man wearing a derby hat will be among 1,400 items up for sale at the two-day auction set to begin Tuesday at the Atlantis Casino Resort.

Titled "Fill Up My Can," the illustration has an estimated value of \$35,000 to \$50,000. It's believed to predate Disney's Mickey Mouse, which made its cartoon debut in 1928.

"Real pieces signed by him (Disney) are re-

ally rare," said Fred Holabird of Reno-based Holabird-Kagin Americana, which is staging the auction. "This is one of the earliest known signed Disney pieces, if not the earliest."

The drawing was once owned by Disney's sister, Ruth Disney.

Also up for auction is what's billed as the "first and possibly only known copy" in private hands of the original Nevada Black Book, which features names, information and photos of about a dozen people barred from entering Nevada casinos.

The 11-page book includes mobster Sam Giancana, whose presence at Frank Sinatra's Cal-Neva hotel-casino at Lake Tahoe prompted revocation of the singer's gambling license in the early 1960s.

The book was made by the Nevada

Gaming Commission about 1960, and was owned by the state's first gambling officer.

"It represents the first effort to keep illegal people out of Nevada casinos. It's a big step in the way we did business in Nevada," Holabird said, adding the book is expected to fetch up to \$5,000.

Also drawing interest is a unique \$50 gold coin struck during the California Gold Rush. It's estimated to be worth from \$135,000 to \$175,000.

"It's the best piece in the auction," Holabird said. "It's one of the first \$50 gold coins Augustus Humbert struck when he was appointed U.S. assayer in San Francisco in 1851."

Also up for auction are collections of Old West photos and Mustang Ranch brothel memorabilia

Khodorkovsky hopes to see documentary on his fate

MOSCOW (AP)—Jailed Russian tycoon Mikhail Khodorkovsky has expressed hope of seeing a documentary about his conflict with the Kremlin that has premiered in Moscow.

Khodorkovsky said in a statement that he "hopes sooner or later" to see the film by German director Cyril Tuschi shown in Russia on Thursday, nine months after its European premiere.

The documentary describes the fate of Russia's richest man—imprisoned since his arrest in 2003 on charges seen as punishment for challenging Prime Minister Vladimir Putin, who was then president. A second conviction last year will keep Khodorkovsky incarcerated until 2016.

Tuschi said Russian distributors have refused to distribute his film due to "self-censorship" and that the documentary will open in a handful of small, independent theaters.

Singer Billy Corgan starts wrestling company

By **CARYN ROUSSEAU**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO (AP)—The long-standing relationship between rock music and professional wrestling has a new partner: Billy Corgan.

The Smashing Pumpkins frontman has joined with two wrestling promoter brothers to debut the first show of Resistance Pro, an indie wrestling company, on Friday at a Chicago dance club. Corgan describes himself as a childhood wrestling fan who fell away from it, only to rediscover it as an adult.

"Our vision is to try to grow talent," Corgan said in an interview from Europe, where the Smashing Pumpkins are on tour. The Chicago-area native will miss Resistance Pro's opening night, but co-owner and promoter Gabe Baron said a second show will be announced at the Friday event.

Resistance Pro's website boasts pictures of more than two dozen costumed wrestling



Corgan

personalities with names like "The Sheik," "Danny Dominion" and "Sassy Stephanie."

Eventually Resistance Pro's goal is to expand nationally, but not using Corgan's celebrity alone. Still, the rocker's picture is the largest, placed among five wrestlers on an advertisement for Friday's show.

"We have to start in Chicago and build a name for ourselves and build enough of a reputation to take it other places," Corgan said. "It's a serious endeavor. I want this to succeed strictly on its ideas. If I had to artificially prime the audience because of my musical life, that's sad. This is going to succeed on its own ideas."

Corgan's partners, brothers Gabe and Jacques Baron, saw inspiration and passion in the rock star.

"This is a guy who is on the same page as we are as far as how wrestling should be," Gabe Baron said, describing a show for fans that's similar to a rock concert.

CELEBRITY EXTRA

By **CINDY ELAVSKY**
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Q: When will Tori Spelling's reality show return to Oxygen? It's one of my guilty pleasures, and I have to admit that I miss it!—Patty T., via e-mail

A: Tori and husband Dean McDermott will return for the sixth season of "Tori and Dean: Home Sweet Hollywood" on Tuesday, Nov. 29. Originally named "Tori and Dean: Inn Love"—where the couple opened a B-and-B while Tori was eight months pregnant with their first child—the new season will welcome the couple's third child together, Hattie Margaret, who was born in October. Hattie joins siblings Liam and Stella, as well as Dean's son, Jack, from a previous marriage.

■ ■ ■

Q: Will "Swamp Wars" be back on Animal Planet anytime soon?—Fred R., Baton Rouge, La.

A: Animal Planet will be bringing back "Swamp Wars" for more drama as the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's Venom One unit carries on its battle against the lethal animals that threaten South Florida. A 12-episode second season begins on Sunday, Nov. 6, at 9 p.m. ET/PT, starting with six all-new episodes and another set of six episodes slated to air in 2012. This season has our heroes facing a Tegu lizard outbreak as well as Nile monitors and Burmese pythons—you know, just the usual deadly invasive creatures. They also battle venomous lionfish,

which are proliferating the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico, and have no known aquatic enemies.

■ ■ ■

Q: I read and enjoy your articles that appear in our newspaper every Sunday. I bet you can answer this: Will "Covert Affairs" on the USA channel be back?—Virginia G., Webster, N.Y.

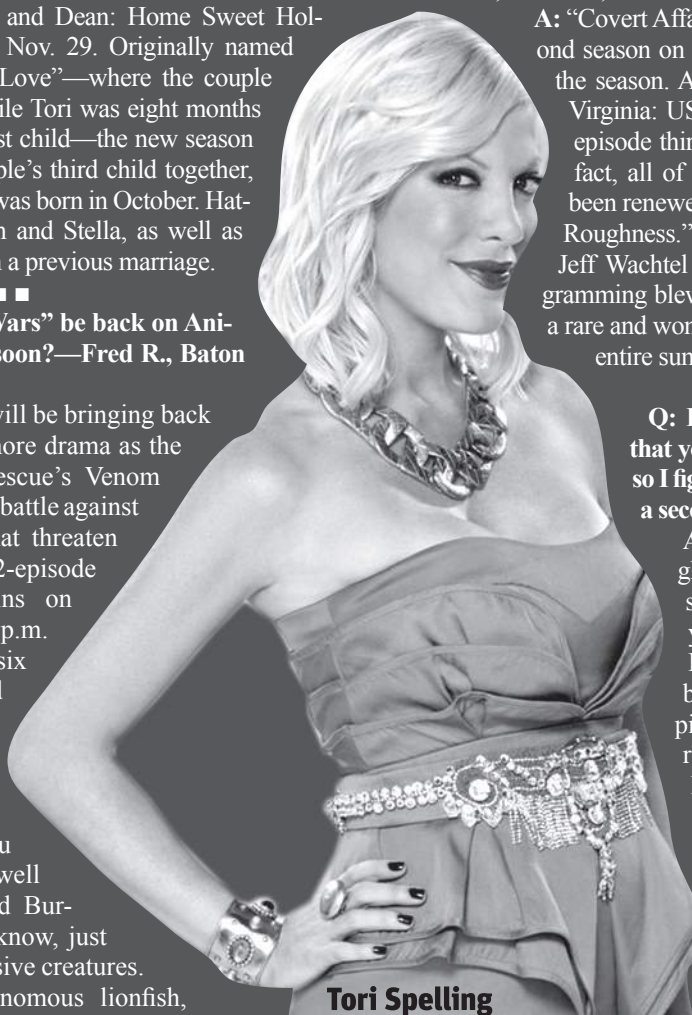
A: "Covert Affairs" begins airing the second half of its second season on Nov. 1, with six episodes left to round out the season. And I have even more good news for you, Virginia: USA has renewed "Covert Affairs" for a 16-episode third season, to begin airing summer 2012. In fact, all of USA's original summer programming has been renewed, including "Royal Pains" and "Necessary Roughness." USA co-presidents Chris McCumber and Jeff Wachtel said in a statement: "USA's original programming blew through all expectations this summer. It's a rare and wonderful thing to announce the pick-up of our entire summer of programming."

■ ■ ■

Q: I remember reading in previous columns that you are a big fan of Syfy's "Being Human," so I figure you can tell me if/when it'll be back for a second season?—Johnny T., via e-mail

A: I am, and I can. The werewolf/vampire/ghost paranormal drama will return for its second season on Monday, Jan. 16. As you'll recall, last season saw the demise of Bishop at the hands of Aidan, with Aidan becoming the new leader of Boston's vampires; Nora learned Josh is a werewolf, not revealing to him that he scratched her while he was in werewolf form; and Sally missed her window to the Great Beyond to help save Aidan.

Write to Cindy at King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475; or e-mail her at letters@cindyelavsky.com.



Tori Spelling

Wife's mumbling causes failure to communicate

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: My wife of 25 years has an annoying habit that drives me crazy. When she starts a conversation with me, she'll speak in a very low voice and mumble without looking at me. I truly cannot hear or understand what she's saying and have to respond with, "Excuse me?" "Pardon me?" or "What?"

When I speak to her, I make sure I talk clearly and in a loud enough voice, but she always throws the same remarks back at me—"Excuse me?" etc. She doesn't do this with anyone else. I have pointed out to her that what she is doing is annoying, disrespectful and rude, and asked her to please not do it, but she continues.

Why does she do this to me, and what can we do to change it? There's nothing wrong with her hearing. She's always telling me to turn down the TV.

MARRIED TO A MUMBLER IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR MARRIED TO A MUMBLER: Allow me to offer a suggestion that may improve the situation: Have YOUR hearing checked. If you can't hear your wife when she speaks softly and isn't looking directly at you, and she "always" tells you to turn down the TV, it could indicate that you are suffering from a hearing loss.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My mother, whom I love very much, is a terrible gift-giver. At Christmas and on birthdays she gives me ridiculous gifts—clothing that doesn't fit, jewelry I would never wear, electronics I haven't asked for and don't need. Last year, she removed the tags from everything and didn't include receipts so the items could be returned. (Some were very costly.)

I have created online wish lists, offered Mom "suggestions" and even told her not to worry about gifts. She'll take none of my suggestions. I try to be polite. But Mom's feelings are always hurt when I'm not "thrilled" with the unwanted gifts, and it puts a damper on events that should be happy ones. I hate her wasting money on things that will not be appreciated or used. How do I handle this?

UNFORTUNATELY UNGRATEFUL

DEAR UNGRATEFUL: Because you have tried being logical, helpful and frank, and nothing has worked, thank your mother for her gifts and then put them on eBay or donate them. That way SOMEONE can appreciate them, or you may get enough money back to buy yourself something you will enjoy.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We have close friends and alternate having dinner at each other's homes. The wife has a couple of habits I find annoying.

She'll run her fingers around the outside of a serving dish and then lick her finger. After dinner, I always have a dish of candy on the table for everyone's enjoyment. But before this woman leaves, she'll say she's taking some of it home to eat later.

Am I being petty to be annoyed by her behavior?

WILLING TO SHARE, BUT ...

DEAR WILLING: I can see how a dinner guest running her finger around a serving dish, then licking her finger could gross you out, and we both know that rather than telling you she's taking some of your candy home with her, she should wait until you offer it.

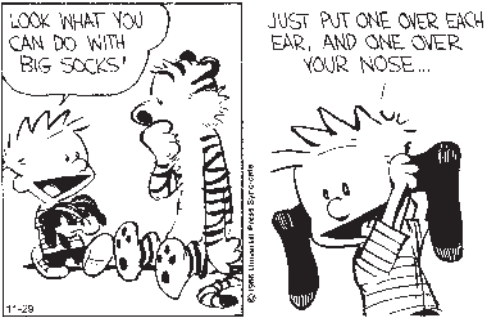
However, you say you are close friends. Therefore I assume that on some level her positives outweigh her negatives, or you would have expressed how her behavior makes you feel—which would have solved your problem because you'd be seeing a lot less of her.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

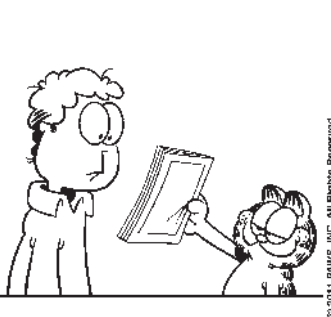
To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



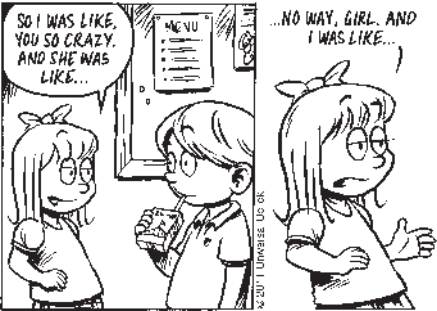
By Bill Waterson Garfield®



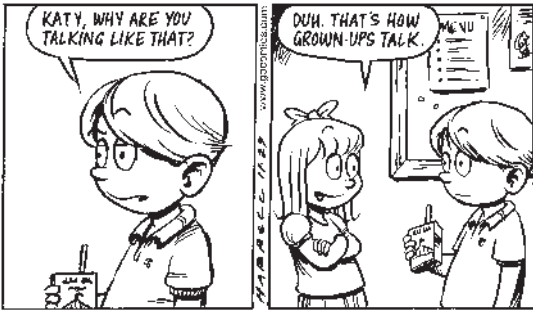
By Jim Davis



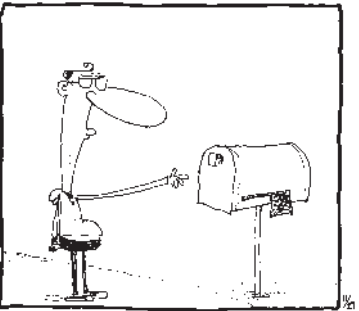
Adam@home



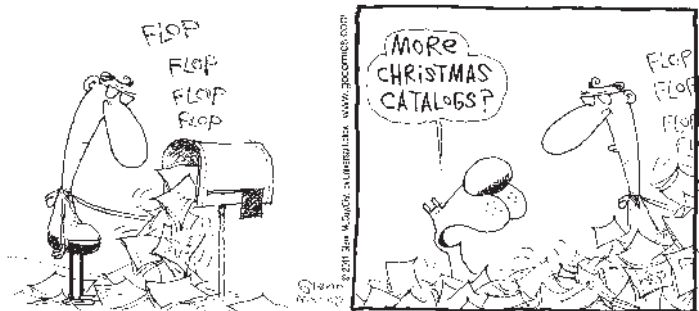
By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 30 "I'll take that as —" 52 Helios 10 Kitten's call 53 Formerly, formerly 11 31-Down members 16 — for tat

DOWN 1 And so on (Abbr.) 20 Highlander 21 Dissolve 22 Hindu royal 23 In due time 24 Hosiery hue 26 Victories 27 Eye part 28 "—, Nanette" 29 Profound 31 Fraternal grp. 34 Reveries 35 Thread partner 37 Overwhelm 38 Otherwise 39 Window ledge 40 Decorate 41 Admitting customers 44 Debtor's letters 45 "— Town" 46 Existed 47 Eccentric

Solution time: 21 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER 11-29

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anna Faris, 35; Don Cheadle, 47; Andrew McCarthy, 49; Howie Mandel, 56.

Happy Birthday: Don't overstep your boundaries. You have to keep things in perspective and do only what's required. Going over budget or taking on too much will leave you in a poor position as the year progresses. Change may be necessary, but do so simply and with moderation. You want to end up with more, not less. Focus, be responsible and do what's right. Your numbers are 3, 12, 17, 25, 33, 43, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look past the obvious. Don't let the little things bother you. It's how you perform and what you do to make things better that will count in the end. Use your head, think matters through and avoid arguing with anyone you work alongside. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your receptiveness to information offered will make a difference. Networking functions will pay off. A contract or settlement will change the way you do things. Don't overreact. Consider what's being offered, cut your losses and move forward. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Look for a partnership that will enhance what you have to offer. An opportunity to promote something you have done in the past will pay off now. Take care of legal matters and make a commitment that will stabilize your future. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't make changes that are premature. Look for opportunities, but don't jeopardize

what you already have. Take particularly good care of a partnership that means a lot to you. Offer your services if it will seal a deal. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do whatever it takes to get things going. Staying in control will allow you to cap the amount spent as well as how much time you put in. Uncertainty regarding an emotional responsibility will require your undivided attention. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Work on self-improvement, not trying to change others. A chance to get together with someone special will open a window of opportunity. Don't let good fortune slip away because you want everything done your way. Win with compromise. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Problems at home will leave you up in the air and uncertain. Make plans to fix anything that isn't working. Take the initiative, do your share and make a difference to the outcome. If you don't pitch in, you won't have a say. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You can argue, or you can get things done. Expect a friend or relative to make your life difficult if you try to avoid responsibilities. Romance is highlighted, and doing something nice for someone special will have its benefits. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Rely on knowledge and experience to avoid making the same mistake again. Getting together with people from your past will stir up emotions and make you reconsider where you want to live. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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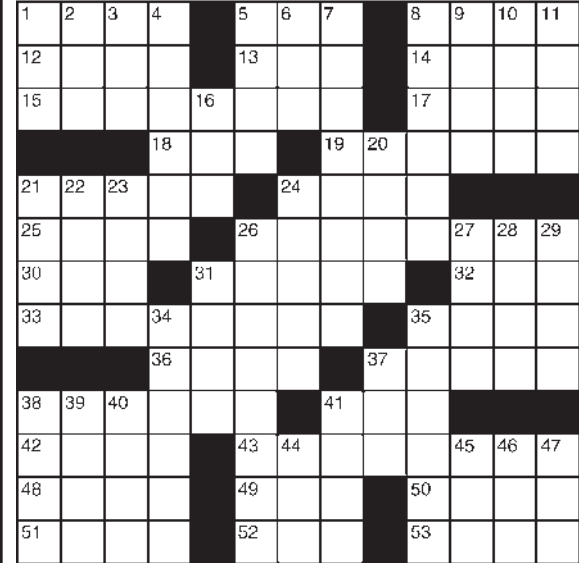
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Secure your assets and reduce your liabilities. Making changes to your home, investments or contracts will pay off. Love is in the stars, and taking time to nurture a relationship will ensure greater personal stability. ★★★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Say what's on your mind. Someone may try to take advantage of you, but your counteroffer will make it clear that you are only willing to do so much. Set your standard and stick to it. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You can be practical and still offer something unique. Choose your path and stick to it until you reach the finish line. Inconsistency will make others lose faith in what you do. Demonstrate, rather than talk about your plans. ★★★★★

Birthday Baby: You are outgoing, inventive and resilient. You see, you do, you accomplish.

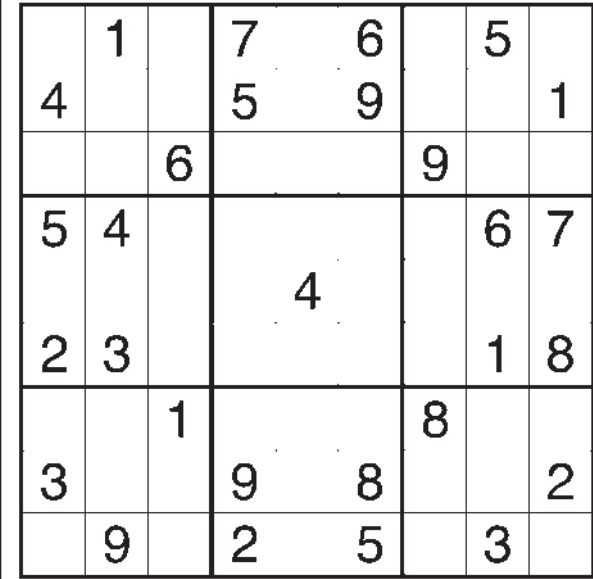
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STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

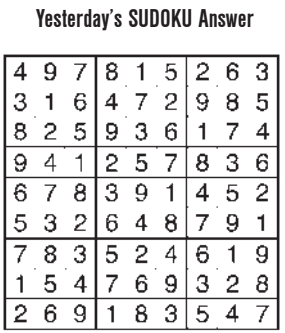
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.



Difficulty Level ★

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

MAD ABOUT HELEN HUNT Solution: 10 letters

B H T A E D F O S S I K S O I
O I T T A K E S T W O C R N
B G O T N E W Y O R K I A E S
R H N N C I H S U S E U S I A
O W L L I H A S P E L L T S N
B A Y A S C H P A U L U A E I
E Y Y F R T W I S T E R W R T
R T O R A R N O K P N O A B Y
T O U O R M Y U M E R B Y I B
S H A G O Y I F H E R I E A B
D E E V I T A L E R N N N A B
M A D A B O U T Y O U S A C B
L V N I K F O T X E N O J A E
A E E C R H C A E B A N I H C
C N S R E D N A S H O O T E R

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Bianca, Bionic Women, Bobby, Bob Roberts, Calm, Cast Away, China Beach, Dance, Ellen, Family, Frog, Highway To Heaven, Hitchhiker, Hunt, Insanity, It Takes Two, Jane, Kiss of Death, Larry, Mad About You, New York, Next of Kin, Only You, Paint, Paul, Prince, Reiser, Relative, Robinson, Sanders, Shooter, Spell, Sushi, Swiss, Twister, Yoga

Yesterday's Answer: Neutron

The New Tuesday Word is made by adding 7 letters, randomly selected from 5000 words, to the 7-letter word "neutron". The letters are: B, H, T, A, E, D, F, O, S, S, I, K, S, O, I, O, I, T, T, A, K, E, S, T, W, O, C, R, N, B, G, O, T, N, E, W, Y, O, R, K, I, A, E, S, R, H, N, N, C, I, H, S, U, S, E, U, S, I, A, O, W, L, L, I, H, A, S, P, E, L, L, T, S, N, B, A, Y, A, S, C, H, P, A, U, L, U, A, E, I, E, Y, Y, F, R, T, W, I, S, T, E, R, W, R, T, R, T, O, R, A, R, N, O, K, P, N, O, A, B, Y, T, O, U, O, R, M, Y, U, M, E, R, B, Y, I, B, S, H, A, G, O, Y, I, F, H, E, R, I, E, A, B, D, E, E, V, I, T, A, L, E, R, N, N, N, A, B, M, A, D, A, B, O, U, T, Y, O, U, S, A, C, B, L, V, N, I, K, F, O, T, X, E, N, O, J, A, E, A, E, E, C, R, H, C, A, E, B, A, N, I, H, C, C, N, S, R, E, D, N, A, S, H, O, O, T, E, R

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Looking for a good used four –door upright freezer for restaurant use. Call Gabriel 285-8050

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ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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at Chalan Kiya, Saipan**

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- Examines patients, obtain medical histories, order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests.
- Counsel patients on diet, hygiene and preventive healthcare.
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- Organize preventive health programs for individual patients.
- Provides special clinics for specific conditions for certain groups and/or refer patients to public health or other healthcare entities e.g. diabetes, smoking cessation, new babies.
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- Promotes health education in conjunction with other health professionals.
- Keeping up to date with medical developments, new drugs, treatments and medications including complimentary medicines.
- Provides medical assistants to hemodialysis patients and confer with the Medical Director and Nephrologists on any medical problems presented by the patients.

- Graduate from School of Medicine
- Must pass U.S. Medical Licensing Exam
- Must have 2 years or more experience in the field of medicine.
- Must be fluent in English

Please submit resume or pick-up application at Saipan Health Clinic or send email to Connie Aldan or Judy Arriola at hpschc@pticom.com. No phone calls please.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Job Vacancy Announcement

Job Vacancy No. 11-067

Opening Date: 11/28/11
Closing Date: Until Filled

LAB SPECIALIST

DUTIES: Under the overall supervision of the Water Laboratory Manager or his/her designee, the incumbent's duties and responsibilities are as follows. Conducts either chemical or microbiological tests on samples to ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency. Performs tests on samples submitted by customers. Prepares solutions and standards. Prepares and maintains mandatory records; performs statistical analysis; reviews and enters data; reports test results to Laboratory Manager and local and federal agencies. Responds to customer complaints to include verifying water quality and conducting field tests. Replenishes lab supply. Collects a variety of samples to include composite, wastewater treatment and receiving water samples. Participates in environmental awareness such as participating in conferences and giving presentations at schools. Calibrates laboratory equipment. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level. SUBJECT TO PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG SCREENING.

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelors Degree in Chemistry, Microbiology, or related field plus proven experience that could be applied towards laboratory work for a water and wastewater utility. **Knowledge of:** Mathematics; Laboratory procedures; Microbiology and chemistry; CNMI and EPA rules and regulations; Safety procedures. **Skills in:** Collecting samples; Performing routine to complex analysis; Preparing media; Following laboratory procedures; Calibrating equipment; Maintaining required records and reports; Providing customer service; Giving presentations; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. CNMI Driver's License. APPLICANTS MAY BE TESTED.

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FRIDAY JANUARY 7, 2011

Sablan, other delegates...
112th Congress...

WHATZIT?

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SMASH!

VOLLEY!

LOB!

Find today's solution in classified section

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Raiders beat errant Bears, 25-20



OAKLAND, California (AP)—Oakland's Sebastian Janikowski kicked a team-record six field goals as the Raiders took advantage of three interceptions from Chicago's fill-in quarterback Caleb Hanie and beat the Bears 25-20 in the NFL on Sunday.

Carson Palmer threw for 301 yards and Michael Bush iced the game with a touchdown run in the fourth quarter to lead the Raiders (7-4) to their third straight win against a Bears team missing starting quarterback Jay Cutler.

Hanie struggled in his first career start in place of Cutler, who broke his right thumb last week in Chicago's fifth straight win to put a major obstacle into what had been a promising season for the Bears (7-4).

Patriots 38, Eagles 20

In Philadelphia, Tom Brady threw for 361 yards and three touchdowns to lead New England to a victory that all but ended Philadelphia's playoff hopes.

Filling in for the injured Michael Vick for the second straight game, quarterback Vince Young couldn't keep the Eagles in contention despite a career-best 400 yards passing. The Eagles fell to 4-7 in a season that began with Super Bowl expectations.

The defending NFC East champions fell to 1-5 at home this season and have lost eight of their past nine at the Linc, including a playoff loss to Green Bay last January.

Down 10-0 early, the AFC East-leading Patriots (8-3) scored on five of their next six possessions, excluding a kneel-down at the end of the first half.

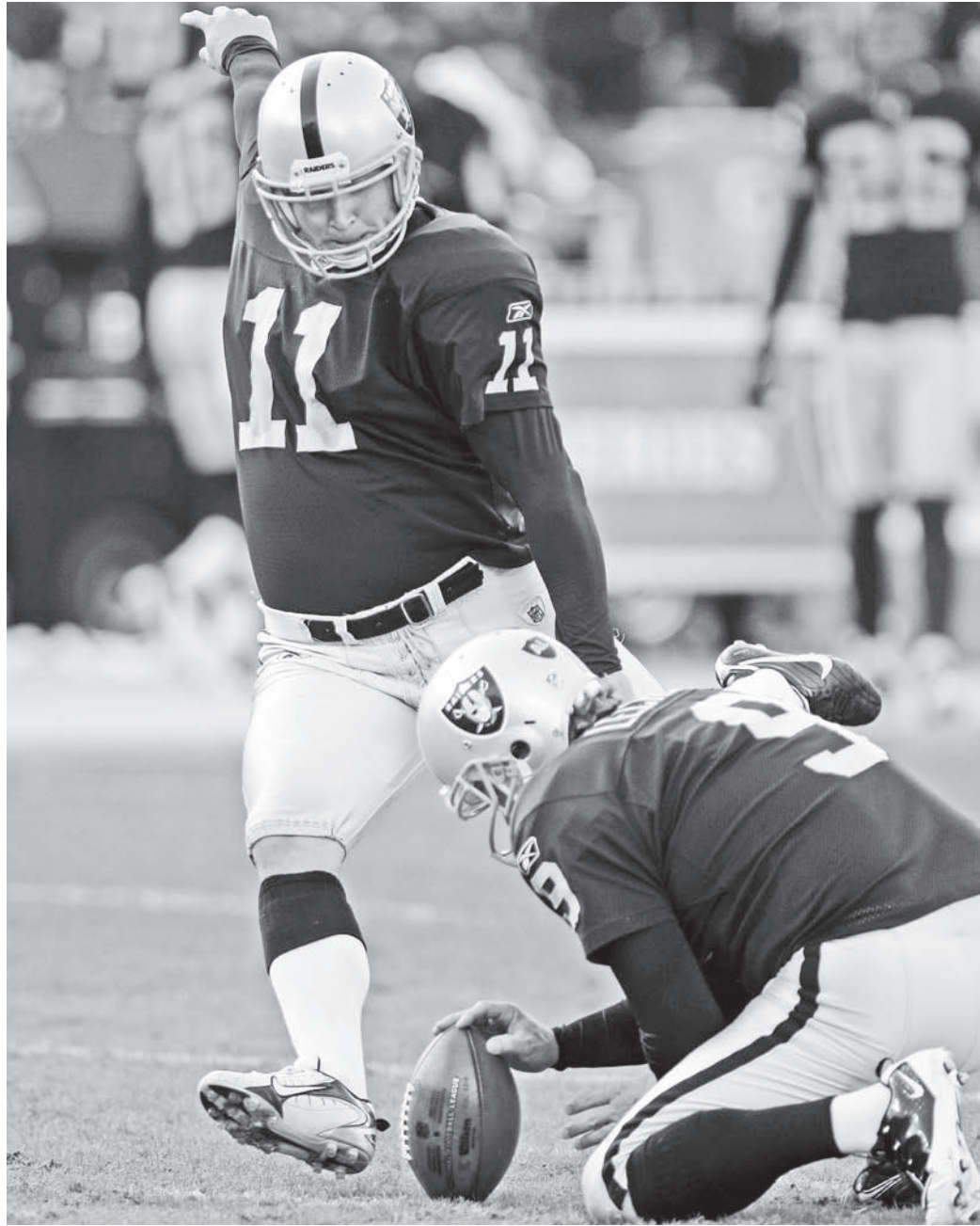
Steelers 13, Chiefs 9

In Kansas City, Pittsburgh took advantage of four turnovers by Kansas City quarterback Tyler Palko.

Playing with a broken thumb on his throwing hand, Steelers quarterback Ben Roethlisberger was 21 of 31 for 193 yards and one interception for the Steelers (8-3), whose defense lost safety Troy Polamalu to an injury in the first quarter yet still kept the stumbling Chiefs (4-7) from scoring a touchdown.

Kansas City hasn't reached the end zone since the game against Denver three weeks ago, a span of 45 offensive drives.

The Chiefs last chance van-



Oakland Raiders' Sebastian Janikowski (11) kicks a 37-yard field goal against the Chicago Bears during the third quarter of an NFL football game in Oakland, Calif., Sunday, Nov. 27, 2011.

ished with 29 seconds left when Palko dropped back to pass at the Pittsburgh 37 but had his throw picked off by Keenan Lewis to seal the game and keep the Steelers tied atop the AFC North with Baltimore.

Texans 20, Jaguars 13

In Jacksonville, Matt Leinart injured his throwing shoulder, overshadowing Houston's victory against offensively inept Jacksonville.

Arian Foster ran for 65 yards and a score, Leinart delivered a perfect touchdown pass to Joel Dreessen before leaving the game, and the Texans (8-3) sacked Jaguars quarterback Blaine Gabbert six times. It was good enough for their fifth consecutive win, which moved Houston a little closer to clinching the AFC South.

But Leinart's shoulder could be a serious setback. The Tex-

ans had already lost starter Matt Schaub for the season so now they are down to T.J. Yates and newly signed Kellen Clemens.

Yates completed 8 of 15 passes for 70 yards in relief of Leinart, doing just enough to help the Texans beat the Jaguars (3-8).

Jets 28, Bills 24

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Mark Sanchez threw four touchdown passes, including the winning score to Santonio Holmes with just over a minute remaining, leading New York over Buffalo.

With the Jets trailing 24-21 and facing a third-and-11 from the Bills 36, Sanchez connected with Plaxico Burress, who made an impressive one-handed grab for the first down. Sanchez quickly ran a quarterback sneak and then, on the next play, rolled out to his right to buy some time and found

Holmes alone in the right corner of the end zone to give the Jets the lead with 1:01 left.

The Jets (6-5) overcame a valiant comeback attempt by the Bills (5-6), who have lost four straight.

Bengals 23, Browns 20

In Cincinnati, A.J. Green made a leaping catch for a 51-yard gain in the final minute, setting up a field goal that rallied Cincinnati to victory over Cleveland.

The surprising Bengals (7-4) stayed right behind Baltimore and Pittsburgh in the AFC North with another second-half comeback forged by their rookie big-play combination.

Andy Dalton threw a high down-the-middle pass that Green went way above the defenders to grab. Green was run out of bounds at the 2, and the Browns (4-7) forced Cincinnati to settle

for Mike Nugent's 26-yard field goal with 38 seconds left—the Bengals' first lead of the game.

Broncos 16, Chargers 13, OT

In San Diego, Denver's Matt Prater kicked a 37-yard field goal with 29 seconds left in overtime to condemn San Diego to its sixth straight loss—its longest losing streak for 10 years.

The game only narrowly avoided becoming the first tie since Cincinnati and Philadelphia ended deadlocked in 2008-09.

With 2:31 left in overtime, San Diego kicker Nick Novak missed a 53-yard field goal attempt. He had earlier made a 53-yarder in the first quarter, a career-best, and missed a 48-yard try early in the fourth quarter.

Tim Tebow, now 5-1 as the Broncos starting quarterback, led Denver (6-5) from its 43-yard line. He had a 12-yard gain and Willis McGahee ran 24 yards up the middle to set up Prater's winning kick.

Titans 23, Buccaneers 17

In Nashville, Chris Johnson ran for a season-high 190 yards to power Tennessee past Tampa Bay.

Matt Hasselbeck threw a 2-yard touchdown pass to Damian Williams on fourth-and-2 with 3:01 left for the winning score.

The Titans (6-5) forced five turnovers and overcame four turnovers of their own. The Bucs outscored them 14-3 off mistakes even though Tennessee got the ball three times on Tampa Bay's side of the field.

But the Titans got the ninth and final turnover of the game when rookie linebacker Colin McCarthy intercepted Josh Freeman with 2:19 left.

The Bucs (4-7) lost their fifth straight even with LeGarrette Blount running for 103 yards.

Falcons 24, Vikings 14

In Atlanta, Matt Ryan tossed three touchdown passes and Atlanta held on again to beat Minnesota.

The Falcons (7-4) were up 17-0 at halftime after allowing just 97 yards. But, mimicking the previous week's fade against Tennessee, they let Minnesota (2-9) back in the game.

Tailback Toby Gerhart, filling in for injured Adrian Peterson, scored from the 1 late in the third quarter. Then Christian Ponder went to Percy Harvin for a 39-yard touchdown pass on fourth-and-13 to make it 17-14.

But Ryan responded with a

3-yard scoring pass to backup Michael Palmer, and the Falcons were held on downs after Harvin's 104-yard kickoff return to the Atlanta 3.

Redskins 23, Seahawks 17

In Seattle, Rex Grossman found Anthony Armstrong for a 50-yard touchdown as Washington rallied for 16 points in the fourth quarter to overwhelm Seattle and end a six-game losing skid.

One play after committing a grounding penalty, Grossman stepped up in the pocket on third-and-19 and found Armstrong in the corner of the end zone.

The touchdown pass was Grossman's second of the game and followed rookie Roy Helu's leaping 28-yard TD run that pulled the Redskins (4-7) within 17-14.

Marshawn Lynch rushed for 111 yards and caught a 20-yard touchdown pass for the Seahawks (4-7).

Cardinals 23, Rams 20

In St. Louis, Patrick Peterson tied the NFL record with his fourth punt return for a touchdown this season, helping Arizona win its seventh straight game at St. Louis.

Beanie Wells set a franchise mark with 228 yards rushing, averaging 8.4 yards per carry on a career day that included gains of 71 and 53 yards. The latter set up Jay Feely's go-ahead 22-yard field goal with 4:12 remaining.

Rookie Sam Acho had two sacks and a fumble recovery for Arizona (4-7), which did enough to overcome another awful outing by John Skelton, who threw two interceptions.

Nick Miller had an 88-yard punt return in the first quarter for the Rams (2-9) only three days after he re-signed with the team.

Panthers 27, Colts 19

In Indianapolis, Cam Newton threw for 208 yards and ran for one score to help Carolina hold off winless Indianapolis.

DeAngelo Williams scored twice for the Panthers (3-8), who ended a 12-game road losing streak dating back to 2009.

Newton was 20 of 27 and carried nine times for 53 yards. Williams ran 15 times for 69 yards including the game-sealing score—a 2-yard TD run with 10:23 left in the game.

The Colts dropped to 0-11 for the first time since 1986 and have lost six home games in a season for the sixth time in the Indianapolis era.

LeBron James 'Homecoming Tour' canceled



With the NBA lockout over, LeBron James, Dwyane Wade and other stars have canceled their "Homecoming Tour." They've got to get ready for other games.

The four-city tour was supposed to open in James' hometown of Akron, Ohio, on Dec. 1, but that game and three others have been scrapped now that the league and its players have a

tentative labor agreement.

"We are thrilled that a tentative agreement has been reached and are looking forward to getting back to work and playing basketball," Wade said in a statement. "We all want to reconnect with our teams to make sure we hit the ground running when training camps are expected to open on December 9. Our commitment to helping children and the communities doesn't stop, and the daily

work of our foundations to do just this will continue, as always."

James and Wade, along with good friends, Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony had games scheduled in Akron, New Orleans, Chicago and East Rutherford, N.J. Proceeds from the tour were to benefit the four headlining players' charitable foundations. The four superstars still plan to hold a charity event on Tuesday in New York.

Organizers for the canceled tour said tickets will be fully refunded at the point of purchase.

Owners and union officials reached agreement to end the 149-day lockout on Saturday following a marathon bargaining session. Players must still approve the deal, and once they do, training camps and free agency will open simultaneously on Dec. 9. The plan is for a 66-game season to begin on Christmas Day. (AP)

NBA posts outline of schedule on Twitter

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA regular season would run through April 26 and require teams to play at least one set of back-to-back-to-back games if a new labor deal is ratified in time to start on Christmas.

The league posted an outline of what the schedule would look like on its Twitter pages Sunday. The plan is a 66-game regular season, ending about 10 days later than usual. The last

possible day of the NBA finals would be June 26, two weeks later than the championship series ended last season.

Teams would play 48 games within their conference and 18 non-conference games. No team would play on three straight nights more than three times.

Back-to-backs might also be played during the second round of the postseason.

Syracuse fires assistant basketball coach Fine



SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)—Bernie Fine was fired Sunday by Syracuse University after a third man accused the assistant basketball coach of molesting him nine years ago.

"At the direction of Chancellor Cantor, Bernie Fine's employment with Syracuse University has been terminated, effective immediately," Kevin Quinn, the school's senior vice president for public affairs, said in a statement.

The 65-year-old Fine was in his 36th season at his alma mater. He had the longest active streak of consecutive seasons at one school among assistant coaches in Division I.

Zach Tomaselli, 23, of Lewiston, Maine, said Sunday that he told police that Fine molested him in 2002 in a Pittsburgh hotel room. He said Fine touched him "multiple" times in that one incident.

He was the third accuser to come forward in the investigation of child molestation allegations against Fine.

Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim said he supported the university's decision to fire his longtime assistant and expressed regret for his initial statements that might have been "insensitive to victims of abuse."

"The allegations that have come forth today are disturbing and deeply troubling," Boeheim said in a statement released by the school. "I am personally very shocked because I have never witnessed any of the activities that have been alleged. I believe the university took the appropriate step tonight. What is most important is that this matter be fully investigated and that anyone with information be supported to come forward so that the truth can be found. I deeply regret any statements I made that might have inhibited that from occurring or been insensitive to victims of abuse."

Two former Syracuse ball boys were the first to accuse Fine, who has called the allegations "patently false."

Tomaselli, who faces sexual assault charges in Maine involving a 14-year-old boy, said during a telephone interview with The Associated Press that he signed an affidavit accusing Fine following a meeting with Syracuse police last week in Albany.

Tomaselli's father, meanwhile, maintains his son is lying.

Bobby Davis, now 39, told ESPN that Fine molested him beginning in 1984 and that the sexual contact continued until he was around 27. A ball boy for six years, Davis told ESPN that the abuse occurred at Fine's home, at Syracuse basketball facilities and on team road trips, including the 1987 Final Four.

Davis' stepbrother, Mike Lang, 45, who also was a ball boy, told ESPN that Fine began molesting him while he was in fifth or sixth grade.

When the accusations first became public Nov. 17, Boeheim adamantly defended his lifelong friend.

In an interview that day with the Post-Standard, Boeheim attacked Davis' reasons for going public with his accusations.

"The Penn State thing came out, and the kid behind this is trying to get money," Boeheim said. "He's tried before. And now he's trying again. If he gets this, he's going to sue the university and Bernie. What do you think is going to happen at Penn State? You know how much money is going to be involved in civil suits? I'd say about \$50 million. That's what this is about. Money."

No one answered the door at the Fine home Sunday. Before Fine's firing, his attorneys released a statement saying Fine would not comment beyond his initial statement.

"Any comment from him would only invite and perpetuate ancient and suspect claims," attorneys Donald Martin and Karl Sleight said. "Mr. Fine remains hopeful of a credible and expeditious review of the relevant issues by law enforcement authorities."

Tomaselli said the scandal at Penn State involving former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky prompted him to come forward. Sandusky is accused in a grand jury indictment of sexually abusing eight boys over a 15-year period.

Amid the child sex-abuse scandal, Penn State's trustees ousted longtime football coach Joe Paterno and university President Graham Spanier. The trustees said Spanier and Paterno, who is not the target of any criminal investigation, failed to act after a graduate assistant claimed he saw Sandusky sexually abusing a young boy in a campus shower in 2002. Former school administrators Tim Curley—who is on administrative leave—and Gary Schultz are charged with not properly alerting authorities to suspected abuse and with perjury. They maintain their innocence.

"It was the Sandusky stuff that came out that really made me think about it," Tomaselli said in the phone interview. "A lot of people were slamming ESPN and Bobby for saying anything. I wanted to come out. ... It made me sick to see all that support for Fine at that point. I was positive he was guilty."

Tomaselli told the Post-Standard that he didn't ask Syracuse police or federal authorities for help in getting the criminal charges dismissed against him in Maine.

Tomaselli was arrested in April on 11 warrants charging gross sexual assault, tampering with a victim, two counts of unlawful sexual contact, five counts of visual sexual aggression against a child and unlawful sexual touching and unlawful sexual contact, Lewiston



In this March 25, 2010, file photo, Syracuse coach Jim Boeheim, left, and assistant coach Bernie Fine sit on the bench at the end an NCAA West Regional semifinal college basketball game against Butler in Salt Lake City.

police said Sunday. They did not say what led to the charges. He has pleaded not guilty.

Tomaselli told the Post-Standard he met Fine after he and his father, Fred, attended a Syracuse autograph session on campus in late 2001.

The newspaper reported that Fine later called Tomaselli's parents to arrange for Tomaselli to go to Pittsburgh with the athletic department staff on a chartered bus, spend the night in Fine's hotel room and attend the team's game on Jan. 22, 2002.

Tomaselli told the Post-Standard that he had dinner with the team, then returned to the hotel room where he accused Fine of putting porn on the TV and fondling him in bed.

Tomaselli attended the basketball game the next day, sitting several rows behind the bench, and rode the chartered bus back to Syracuse, the newspaper reported.

"The one time there was multiple incidents in that one night, but there was only one night that he ever sexually abused me," Tomaselli told the AP.

However, during a phone interview with the AP, Fred Tomaselli said: "I'm 100 percent sure that Bernie Fine was never in contact with Zach. He never went to Pittsburgh to a game, never been to that arena."

"I brought him to a couple of games in Syracuse. We always sat in the nosebleed section and left after the game. He never stayed for any overnights and never even got within shouting distance of Bernie."

During his long career with

Syracuse, Fine tutored the likes of Derrick Coleman, LeRon Ellis and John Wallace in his role of working with post players. Coleman was the top pick in the 1990 NBA draft, Ellis was the Clippers' 22nd overall choice in 1991, and Wallace was picked 18th in 1996 by the New York Knicks.

Boeheim and Fine met at Syracuse University in 1963, when Fine was student manager of the basketball team. Fine graduated in 1967 with a degree in personal and industrial relations and went into business for himself.

In 1970, Fine was named basketball and football coach at Lincoln Junior High in Syracuse and went to Henninger High School the next year as the junior varsity basketball coach. He became varsity basketball coach in 1975. When Boeheim was chosen to succeed Roy Danforth at Syracuse in 1976 Boeheim offered Fine a job as an assistant.

Fine was an integral part of the staff that guided Syracuse to the national championship in 2003. During his tenure the Orange also made two other appearances in the NCAA title

game, losing in 1987 to Indiana and in 1996 to Kentucky. He also guided the U.S. Maccabiah team to a silver medal at the 1993 World Maccabiah Games in Israel and has served as director of a successful basketball camp in the Northeast.

The Post-Standard also reported that Zach Tomaselli was invited by Fine to a party at his home after the Syracuse-Pitt game on Feb. 1, 2003—a game where Zach Tomaselli said Fine arranged seats for him and his father several rows behind the bench.

Tomaselli told the newspaper his father, who was unable to attend the party, allowed him to go to Fine's house and stay the night.

While there, Tomaselli told the AP, Fine asked him to get into bed and that Fine's wife, Laurie, was there when it happened.

"I told them (police) that Laurie was standing right there when Bernie asked me to sleep in a bed. Laurie knew all about it," he said during the phone interview.

On Sunday, ESPN played an audiotape, obtained and recorded by Davis, of an October 2002

telephone conversation between him and Laurie Fine.

Davis told ESPN he made the recording, which also has been given to Syracuse police, without her knowledge because he knew he needed proof for the police to believe his accusations. ESPN said it hired a voice recognition expert to verify the voice on the tape and the network said it was determined to be that of Laurie Fine.

Davis also acknowledged in an interview with ESPN that he and Laurie Fine had a sexual relationship when he was 18, and that he eventually told Bernie Fine about it.

"I thought he was going to kill me, but I had to tell him," Davis said. "It didn't faze him one bit."

During the call to the woman, Davis repeatedly asks her what she knew about the alleged molestation.

"Do you think I'm the only one that he's ever done that to?" Davis asked.

"No ... I think there might have been others but it was geared to ... there was something about you," the woman on the tape said.

On the tape, she also says she knew "everything that went on."

"Bernie has issues, maybe that he's not aware of, but he has issues. ... And you trusted somebody you shouldn't have trusted ..."

During the call, Davis tells her he asked her husband in the late 1990s for \$5,000 to help pay off his student loans.

"When he gave you the money, what does he want for that?" she asked.

He tells her that Fine wanted to engage in sexual activity in several ways.

"... And I'd try to go away, and he'd put his arm on top of my chest. He goes, 'If you want this money, you'll stay right here,'" Davis said.

"Right. Right," she said. "He just has a nasty attitude, because he didn't get his money, nor did he get what he wanted."

On Friday, federal authorities carried out a search at his Fine's suburban Syracuse home but declined to comment on what they were looking for.

New York State Police spokesman Jack Keller said troopers were called to assist the U.S. attorney's office at the search. At least six police vehicles were parked on the street during the search, which lasted around nine hours. Officers carted away three file cabinets and a computer for further examination.

Astros fire GM Wade and president Smith



HOUSTON (AP)—The Houston Astros have fired general manager Ed Wade and team president Tal Smith.

The moves come less than a week after the sale of the team from Drayton McLane to Jim Crane was officially completed.

The team announced the moves late Sunday night in a statement from new team president and chief executive officer George Postolos.

Postolos says "with the change in ownership, we would like a fresh start in baseball operations."

The search for a new general

manager will begin immediately. Assistant general manager Dave Gottfried will serve as interim general manager, but will not be considered for the job full time.

The Astros, who will move from the NL Central to the AL West in 2013, were 56-106 last year for the worst record in franchise history.

Three teams end season atop divisions

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER



Es'y Kitchen's IT&E Kamote's, Sand's Bar's Anie's Imuza, and D'Pirates Bar's Sabalu Boys finished their respective Saipan Electronic Dart Association divisions in first place as the Master, C-Division, and Tuesday B-League regular seasons came to a close last week.

Teams will be given a week off before the commencement of the Budweiser Cup post-season tournaments.

On Wednesday IT&E Kamote's defeated third-ranked M-Destroyers, 10-7, at home to finish its season with a win-loss record of 161-94.

Six games back is its sister team SOS Jokers (155-100), who absorbed an 8-9 road upset to D'Pirates' D'Companeros (115-140). Snipers (115-140), meanwhile, finished the season on a high note following 10-7 decision on the road over Jonny's Azkals (71-184).

M-Destroyers' Sadiri Martin and D'Companeros' Julius Monton each posted High In 160s, while SOS's Jeff Barit marked a 155 High Out.

IT&E's Jun Olita finished first place out of a field of 39 players in the individual statistics. In 30 games, Olita averaged 29.69 points per dart and 4.29 marks per round for a weighted average of 76.84; his weighted average came out 8.3 points ahead of SOS's Pam Ybanez



Anie's Imuza completed its SEDA C-Division season with a victory over the Sparks at home in Sand's Bar to preserve a seven-game lead in the final standings.

(26.23 PPD/3.86 MPR in 28 games).

Also on Wednesday, Anie's Imuza improved its record to 156-69 with an 11-4 rout of Sparks (129-96) to uphold its seven-game lead in the C-Division standings.

VFW's Oneshot (151-74) gained a big chunk of ground with a 14-1 shellacking of Bar Gaia's Gaiana-C (53-172) and leap-frogged past now third-ranked Yotsketch Boys (149-76).

Yotsketch Boys was bumped out of the runner-up spot despite a sound 12-3 victory over Joe's Sports Bar's I Like It (90-135) at home in D'Pirates Bar.

In other results, Oh! MG knocked off D'Pirates' Lucky Shot (96-129), 11-4,

at home in Naked Fish Bar & Grill and World C (81-144) edged Jonny's Night Hawks (90-135), 8-7, in an upset at home in Gaia.

World C's Jake Licop posted a High In 160 and Oneshot's Scott Guerrero a 141 High Out in their respective matches.

Anie's Imuza's Roderick Osorio finished first place over a field of 68 players in the individual statistics. He averaged 19.30 points per dart and 2.84 marks per round in 30 games for a weighted average of 50.54. Close behind him came teammates Mark Butac (WA 45.20), Mark Estrada (WA 43.28), and Brian Nelvis (WA 42.54) who fin-

ished in third, fifth, and sixth place, respectively.

Back on Tuesday, the Sabalu Boys ran away with Tuesday B-League's top honor with a 12-3 victory over K-1 Snickers (43-182). Sabalu finished the season with an impressive 177-48 win-loss slate, allowing it to capture the championship 38 wins ahead of its nearest rival.

In addition, a trio of D'Pirates Bars swept the podium in the division as Delubyo (139-86) took second place after finishing out with a 10-5 road win over VFW's Assahunz (72-153), while Mixed Bloodshooters 2 (135-90) came in third place after edging out Strike Force (101-124), 8-7.

Meanwhile, Es'y's Kamote's Shawarma Boys (133-92) knocked off Om-bre Za (90-135), 12-3, in a road draw at Es'y and the GCC Carpeters (129-96) pulled off an 8-7 road win over the Dosukebe Boys (106-119) at Jonny's.

K-1 Snickers' Ray Anthony Fitial shot a High In 160 and Shawarma's Jekjek Dionisio posted 121 High Out in their respective matches.

Sabalu's Ray Indelacio finished first place among a field of 69 in the individual statistics. He averaged 21.91 points per dart in 24 games to go with 2.97 marks per round in seven games for a weighted average of 54.55.

His teammates Carter Calma (WA 51.24) and Everett Indelacio (50.64) finished second and third, respectively.

haps sending his U12, 14U, and 16U squads back to Guam over the summer to participate in an event hosted by the Inarajan Hawks.

On the RBC's overall performance, Diaz added, "All things considered I have to chalk this up as a success. Our late arrival was unfortunate, but the organizers did their best to let us still compete. And I am very proud of my players because they did not care about all the obstacles put up against them; they just went out and played hard. Deep down, I think we won over a lot of people in the crowd on Guam and they may have underestimated us a bit."

The event was held in Guam's Tamuning Gymnasium. A total of 59 teams competed in nine divisions.

RBC

From Page 28

their Turkey Dash coed finals duel, 22-29, to Guam's Inarajan Hawks.

The U12 Rollers went through the MTM Falcons, 38-13, and then downed the Typhoons, 36-23, before trampling the Raiders Club, 38-17, to clinch the finals berth.

Last Friday, the U14A Rollers won its first game over the Tamuning Typhoons, 59-40, but couldn't rebound after a hard-fought loss in its second pairing against the Inarajan Hawks, 33-37, and were eliminated by the MTM Falcons in its third game, 39-26, later that afternoon. The team played all three on the same day and may have

TRADERS

From Page 28

second-ranked Golden Racquet (66 games won) and No. 3 Berks Blazers (63) will duke it out in the other semis pairing. TAGA Badminton Club (55) was eliminated.

SBC completed its domination of the elimination round after winning its last two assignments over the weekend. SBC first downed Shirley's Badminton Club, 21-12, and then defeated the

Berks Blazers, 19-14.

Against Shirley's, SBC won three of their first four matches played in Week 2 and then the former topped five more pairings last Friday. SBC swept the singles matches with Dick Guintu and Toshiko Obata prevailing over Shirley's Jerry Hibi, 21-14, 22-20, and Annette Ta, 18-21, 21-11, 21-17, respectively.

In other results last Friday, SBC's Toshiko Obata and Heo In Sook beat Elma Labuson and Roma Barlaio in the women's doubles B, 21-14, 22-10; Gary Bandoja and Sook swept Aries Cordero

and Jaja Samonte in the mixed doubles B, 21-13, 21-9; Bandoja and Sunja Kim edged Malou Malasarte and Joseph Santos in the mixed doubles A, 18-21, 25-23, 21-17; and Hannah Choi and Kim swept Malasarte and Samonte in the women's doubles A, 21-10, 21-10. Shirley's wins in the pairing came from Sam Jones and Santos (men's doubles B), Hibi and Buljenns (men's doubles B), Jexler Caranto and Brendon Talanina (men's doubles C), and Caranto and Windy Fernandez (mixed doubles C).

For its final assignment, SBC chal-

lenged the Berks last Saturday and Sunday and drew wins from Oh Anyeol and Kang Yun Moo (men's doubles C), Bandoja and Oh Imbog (men's doubles B), Lee Sang Mi and Lee Eun Yee (women's doubles C), Joel Ortega and Kim Boranah (mixed doubles C), and Choi (women's singles).

Anyeol and Kang swept Berks' Roman Neri and Rommel Bartolome, 21-14; 21-10; Bandoja and Imbog topped Gerry Balarao and Wowie Abuel, 21-18, 21-17; and Lees edged Jane Tupaz and Arlene Naguit, 17-21, 21-18, 21-18; Ortega and

MOBIL

From Page 28

Shop Invitational Basketball League this Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Mobil, which finished the round-robin regular season with a 7-2 record, will duel last-ranked Hyatt at 6pm. Mobil finished in a three-way deadlock for first place with DFS Galleria and Fiesta Resort & Spa, but won the tiebreak as it beat the two other first place squads

in the regular season. Mobil first edged Fiesta on Oct. 20, 98-94, and then defeated DFS Galleria, 95-78.

Hyatt was also in a three-way tie for sixth to eighth place with its 3-6 record, but slid to the last spot, as it bowed to both Grillin' (3-6), and Shirley's (3-6). Hyatt is clearly the underdog in the first playoff match, as it also lost to Mobil in the regular season, 77-83. In Mobil's win, Jun Estolas and Marvin Rabauliman top-scored for the pennant champion with 25 points each. In their second meeting with Hyatt, it was not yet con-

firmed whether Rabauliman will be able to play or not after having a bad fall in Mobil's last game in the regular season last week. The Mobil forward dropped to the floor hard after challenging the shot of Roy Hernandez during the second quarter of their 86-98 defeat at the hands of Grillin' and sustained a swollen left shoulder. Rabauliman failed to return to the game after scoring all his six points in the second canto.

After the Mobil-Hyatt tussle, the second-ranked DFS Galleria will take on Grillin' at 8pm. A loss in the first round of playoffs will boot out the losing team, as this year's Shirley's caging will implement a single elimination format.

For the second day of the playoffs on Dec. 6, fourth finisher and defending champion Pacific Islands Club/NVM will challenge No. 5 seed PSS/McGraw-Hill at 6pm. PIC had a roller-coaster ride in the regular season and ended up with a 6-3 record, while PSS held a 5-4 mark, posting a four-game winning streak before dropping its last three games.

XGA's December Ace tourney this Saturday at COP



The X-Clusive Golf Association is hosting its Ace of the Month tournament for December this Saturday, Dec. 3, at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Showtime is set at 10am with an 11am shotgun start. (Walter Cepeda Sutherland)



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	8	3	0	.727	331	223
N.Y. Jets	6	5	0	.545	256	241
Buffalo	5	6	0	.455	261	281
Miami	3	8	0	.273	212	206

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	8	3	0	.727	293	179
Tennessee	6	5	0	.545	226	212
Jacksonville	3	8	0	.273	138	200
Indianapolis	0	11	0	.000	150	327

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	3	0	.727	272	182
Pittsburgh	8	3	0	.727	233	188
Cincinnati	7	4	0	.636	259	215
Cleveland	4	7	0	.364	165	216

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Oakland	7	4	0	.636	260	274
Denver	6	5	0	.545	221	260
Kansas City	4	7	0	.364	153	265
San Diego	4	7	0	.364	249	275

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	4	0	.636	270	225
N.Y. Giants	6	4	0	.600	228	228
Philadelphia	4	7	0	.364	257	251
Washington	4	7	0	.364	183	222

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	7	3	0	.700	313	228
Atlanta	7	4	0	.636	259	227
Tampa Bay	4	7	0	.364	199	291
Carolina	3	8	0	.273	252	305

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Green Bay	11	0	0	1.000	382	227
Chicago	7	4	0	.636	288	232
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	316	246
Minnesota	2	9	0	.182	214	295

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
San Francisco	9	2	0	.818	262	161
Seattle	4	7	0	.364	185	232
Arizona	4	7	0	.364	213	256
St. Louis	2	9	0	.182	140	270

Yesterday's Games

Arizona 23, St. Louis 20
Tennessee 23, Tampa Bay 17
Cincinnati 23, Cleveland 20
N.Y. Jets 28, Buffalo 24
Houston 20, Jacksonville 13
Carolina 27, Indianapolis 19
Atlanta 24, Minnesota 14
Oakland 25, Chicago 20
Washington 23, Seattle 17
Denver 16, San Diego 13, OT
New England 38, Philadelphia 20
Pittsburgh 13, Kansas City 9

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boranah slipped past Tupaz and Balarao, 23-21, 18-21, 21-16, and Choi defeated Lucille Lampera, 21-11, 21-11.

Meanwhile, in the playoff round, qualifying teams will still compete in 11 matches with squads recording a sweep getting three games won. The club with the most games won at the end of the pairing wins the semis and advances to the finals.

lunge resurgent Shirley's. Fiesta lost its first two games, but won the last seven to record the longest winning run in the season. Shirley's picked up its game late, prevailing in its last two matches to save a spot in the playoffs.

Winners of the Mobil-Hyatt and DFS-Grillin' games will square off in the semifinals on Dec. 8 at 6pm, while the other semis pairing at 8pm will feature the victors of the Fiesta-Shirley's and PIC-PSS matches. The winner-take-all finals is set for Dec. 11 at 8pm after the battle for third place at 6pm.

NMIFA U8 and U10 Football Fall Festival

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Tan Holdings FC's Eddie Boy Cho tries to keep the ball on their side during their U10 game against Paire in the NMIFA U10 Football Fall Festival at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.



Paire's Logan Mister (in red uniform) battles a Tan Holdings defender in a footrace.



Paire and Tan Holdings striker chase the ball.



An MP United player uses his knees to keep the ball.



A Shirley's FC strikes breaks away from his defender during their U8 game.



Tan Holdings and Paire player fall at the pitch during the first half of their game.



Paire and Tan Holdings U8 players share a light moment after the match.



MP United and Shirley's FC players in action near the sideline.



MP United and Shirley's FC players exchange hi-fives after their game.



Parents and supporters of MP United and Shirley's FC teams watch the first half action.



Raiders beat
errant Bears,
25-20
PAGE 24

Saipan Tribune Sports

Syracuse fires
assistant basket-
ball coach Fine

PAGE 25

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2011

Lee, Lopez lead juniors doubles winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The diminutive pair of Carol Lee and Mikayla Lopez played big in the girls U15 doubles of the 3rd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic as they nearly shut-out their foes en route to winning the championship last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

In their Round 1 match last Saturday, Lee and Lopez allowed Negahr Rastguiry and Tammy Ackerman two points for an impressive 6-2, 6-0. Then in the championship-clinching game against Isabel Heras and Julia Ishikawa last Sunday, Lopez and Lee cruised to a 6-0, 6-1 win. Heras and Ishikawa settled for runner-up honors after prevailing over Ackerman and Rastguiry (via default) in the consolation match.

The girls U15 doubles crown was Lee and Lopez's second championship in Week 2, as the former also reigned supreme in



Lopez



Lee

the girls U112 singles and the latter ruled the girls U15.

Other pairs who secured doubles crown in the second and final week of the Tan Holdings Classic were Thea Minor and Christian Miller, Vincent Tudela and Haruya Eda, Tania Tan and Ami Tsukagoshi, and

Alex Park, and Clayton Izuka.

The top-seeded Minor and Miller won the U18 doubles championship against four other teams. The winning duo drew a bye in the first round and marched into the finals after a 6-1, 6-0 win in the semis over Justin Poon and Ji Hoon Choi.

In the finals, Minor and Miller faced Seiya Eda and Chris Cajigan and notched another straight set win, 6-3, 6-2.

Cajigan and Eda advanced to the finals after beating Colin Ramsey and Morris Villanueva in the first round, 6-4, 6-1, and pulling off an upset over the

second-ranked Daniel Park and Jake Lee, 7-5, 2-6, 10-5.

Tudela and Eda were unbeaten in two games in the boys U10 doubles to win the championship. They first dueled Logan Mister and Cole Chambers last Saturday and ended the game after only two sets, 6-1, 6-3. For their second match last Sunday, Tudela and Eda were paired against Mondo Taniguchi and Ken Song and needed three sets to eke out a victory, 6-4, 6-7, 10-6. Mister and Chambers clinched runner-up honors after downing Taniguchi and Song, 6-2, 7-5.

In the girls U12 doubles, Tan and Tsukagoshi sealed the championship after sweeping Katherine Atalig and Hanna Nelson last Sunday, 6-1, 6-2. Earlier in their first match, Tsukagoshi and Tan also coasted to a 6-1, 6-2 triumph over Malika Miyawaki and Grace Choi, who eventually took the runner-up awards after prevailing over Atalig and Nelson, 7-5, 6-3.

The boys U12 doubles plum went to Izuka and Park, who thwarted Michael Ren and Steven Goodwin in the finals, 3-6, 6-4, 7-5. Izuka and Park were ranked second in their division and stunned the No. 1-seeded pair of Luther Lizama and Michael Jones, 6-4, 6-0, to make it to the finals against Ren and Goodwin, who defeated Eda and Tudela in the other semis pairing, 6-0, 6-1.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman drives against Fiesta Resort's Jawn Joyner during their regular season game in the Shirley's caging last month at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium. Mobil will start its playoff bid this Saturday against Hyatt.

Mobil, Hyatt to start Shirley's caging playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Pennant champion Mobil and Hyatt Regency Saipan will play in the first playoff game in the 3rd Annual Shirley's Coffee See MOBIL on Page 26

SBC takes top seeding in Traders tournament

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Badminton Club ruled the round-robin elimination of the 5th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament and will be seeded first in this weekend's playoffs at the TSL Sports Complex.

After playing against four other teams, SBC collected 85 games won and will be battling the last playoff qualifier, Shirley's Badminton Club, in the crossover semifinals. The

See TRADERS on Page 26

A Saipan Badminton Club player hits a low return during a men's doubles C game against the Berks Blazer last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



RBC brings home two championships from Guam tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Two of the Rollers Basketball Club's six teams that took part in Guam's 2011 Take Care Thanksgiving Hoops Fest tournament brought home championship trophies when they returned to Saipan early yesterday morning.

The U16-U18 Rollers, led by Kiolani Rios, won the Turkey Fly & Shoot recreational division championship, 33-21, over the Mongmong Toto Maite Falcons; while the Turkey Run U14B recreational division Rollers blew away the Tamuning Typhoons, 41-10, for the club's second title.

The U12 IT&E Rollers went undefeated in their march to the finals but came up a little short for the sweep.

Rios was the top scorer of the U16-U18 finals and received most valuable player honors for her performance and also fin-



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

RBC's IT&E Rollers, seen here in a file photo wearing the light blue jerseys, won the 2011 Take Care Thanksgiving Hoop Fest U14B Turkey Run recreational division championship over the weekend in Guam.

ished first place on the division top scorers list. Rios totaled 25 markers to average just over eight points in three games (8.33).

The U16-U18 Rollers fared well in its doubleheader on Thanksgiving morning, routing the the Tamuning Typhoon,

42-11, and outlasting the MTM Falcons, 29-21, in their first meeting.

On Thanksgiving Day, the U14B squad also faced a doubleheader and rose to the occasion, shocking Tamuning Typhoons I, 32-19, and then its Typhoons II counterparts, 42-11, in the early afternoon.

The win gave the Rollers a spot in the finals with a day's rest, as only three teams made up the field.

U14B's Roller's Jun Fidelino led his crew in points and his teammate C.J. Morales was selected as the most valuable player. Fidelino finished first place in top scorers list with 27 points through three games for an average of nine. His teammate Wilfredo Francisco finished right behind him with 26 points for an average of 8.67 markers per game.

After coming into the championship undefeated, the U12 Rollers came up just short in See RBC on Page 26